

ECB'S SOBER ASSESSMENT

JACK EWING

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FRANKFURT, Germany

The president of the European Central Bank issued a sober assessment of the eurozone economy, saying Thursday that he was "very, very cautious" about prospects for growth and



President of the European Central Bank Mario Draghi during a news conference in Frankfurt, Germany, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013.

(AP Photo/Michael Probst)

acknowledging concern about shock waves from the civil war in Syria.

"I can't share the enthusiasm" about budding growth in the eurozone, Mario Draghi, the bank president, said at his monthly news conference. "These shoots are still very, very green."

The central bank kept its benchmark interest rate at a record low of 0.5 percent Thursday, which had been expected after recent economic indicators showed the eurozone economy was beginning to recover, albeit weakly. But Draghi said the bank had not ruled out future rate cuts.

"We certainly are alert to the geopolitical risks that may come from the Syrian situation," he added.

Continued on Page 8

TOUGH SELL



Obama seeks world leaders' support to strike Syria

President Barack Obama shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin during arrivals for the G-20 summit at the Konstantin Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013.

(AP Photo/Pablo Monsivais)

JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)

— President Barack Obama pressed fellow world leaders on Thursday to support a U.S.-led strike on Syria, but he ran into opposition from

Russia, China and even the European Union — which condemned the deadly recent chemical weapons attack in Bashar Assad's country but declared it too soon for military action.

"The use of chemical weapons in Syria is not only

a tragedy but also a violation of international law that must be addressed," Obama insisted during a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the sidelines of the Group of 20 economic summit, where he mostly made

his case behind the scenes. China's G-20 delegation spokesman, Qin Gang, was among those who countered, saying: "War isn't the fundamental way to solve problems in Syria."

Continued on Page 3

Google argues to continue scanning Gmail

MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Writer

SAN JOSE, California (AP)

— Google's attorneys say their long-running practice of electronically scanning the contents of people's Gmail accounts to help sell ads is legal, and have asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit that seeks to stop the practice.

In a federal court hearing Thursday in San Jose, Google argued that "all users of email must necessarily expect that their emails will be subject to automated processing."

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of 10 individuals, is expected to be certified as a class action and is widely seen as a precedent-setting case for other email providers.

The plaintiffs say Google "unlawfully opens up,

reads, and acquires the content of people's private email messages" in violation of California's privacy laws and federal wiretapping statutes. The lawsuit notes that the company even scans messages sent to any of the 425 million active Gmail users from non-Gmail users who never agreed to the company's terms.

"This company reads, on a daily basis, every email that's submitted, and when I say read, I mean looking at every word to determine meaning," said Texas attorney Sean Rommel, who is co-counsel suing Google. And Rommel said "the data that's being amassed by this company" could be used for more than just targeting advertising, although the parts of the

lawsuit discussing what more Google might be doing with private information is currently under seal.

"The injury is two-fold: the privacy invasion and the loss of property. Google is taking people's property because they can get it for free as opposed to paying for it," said Rommel.

Judge Lucy Koh said she would consider Google's request to terminate the case, but she said she is also interested in scheduling a trial for next year, indicating she is unlikely to dismiss. She did not say when she would decide.

Scrutinizing Google's privacy policy, Koh noted that it doesn't specify that Google is scanning Gmail when it describes the type of information it's collecting.



Muslim women chant slogans during a protest demanding the cancellation of the Miss World pageant that will be held in Bali and Sentul, West Java later this month, in Jakarta, Indonesia, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013. Hundreds of Muslims staged the rally saying that such a competition violates Islamic teachings. (AP Photo/Dita Alangkara)

Indonesian Muslims resume Miss World pageant protest

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— Indonesian Muslim hardliners resumed protests Thursday against the Miss World pageant, as organizers insisted that the event would go on as scheduled this weekend on the resort island of Bali.

In Jakarta, the capital, about 1,000 members of the Islamic group Hizbut Tahrir Indonesia rallied outside the building housing the local organizer of the contest.

Chanting "Allah Akbar," or "God is great," the protesters, mostly women, waved banners reading "Reject Miss World."

Protests also were held in the Sumatran cities of Medan and Pekanbaru, and in Makassar in Sulawesi. Protesters gathered at local council buildings and called on the government to revoke the permit for the contest.

The local organizer, MNC media group, said it was not possible to cancel the contest or move the location, and that the government had pledged to provide security for the event. "I think there is a misunderstanding," Hary Tanoe-soedibjo, head of MNC, told reporters Wednesday in Bali. "I assure that there will be nothing that runs against our culture. I would not accept if there was a bikini show."

The chairwoman of the Miss World Organization, Julia Morley, earlier confirmed

that none of the contestants would wear a bikini.

The competition will be held partly on Bali, with the final round set for Sept. 28 on the outskirts of Jakarta.

"The contest will not be different from other beauty pageants in Indonesia," said Budi Rusmanto, an organizer in Jakarta. "The only difference is the participants."

Rejection of the event has come not only from hard-line groups, but also from the country's most influential clerics' group, the Indonesia Ulema Council, whose fatwas, or edicts, are followed by many devoted Muslims.

Last week, the council urged the government to cancel the contest, saying the exposure of skin by women in such a competition violates Islamic teachings, even after organizers agreed to cut the bikini competition and instead outfit contestants in more conservative sarongs.

Most Muslims in Indonesia, a secular country of 240 million people and the world's most populous Islamic country, are moderate, but a small extremist fringe has become more vocal in recent years.

On Wednesday, hundreds of protesters took to the streets in Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, and Bandung, the West Java capital, while on Tuesday hundreds rallied in Jakarta. □

Caribbean:

Gabrielle downgraded to tropical depression

DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Tropical Storm Gabrielle was downgraded to a depression Thursday as it lashed the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico with heavy rains and swirled toward the Dominican Republic.

The storm was about 30 miles (50 kilometers) south-southwest of Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, in late afternoon and was moving northwest at 9 mph (15 kph) with winds of up to 30 mph (50 kph). It was expected to weaken further in the next two days as it passes over or near the eastern Dominican Republic.

Puerto Rico Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla had activated the National Guard, canceled classes at all public schools and closed central government agencies as a precaution.

Heavy rains were still expected across Puerto Rico, state meteorologist Ernesto Morales said.

"We should not lower our guard," he said. "The storm is very dangerous. There's a very high possibility of flooding."

Falling trees brought down a telephone post in the central town of Ciales,



This NOAA satellite image taken Thursday, September 5, 2013, shows Tropical Depression Gabrielle over the northeastern Caribbean Sea and Puerto Rico moving northwest.

(AP PHOTO/Weather Underground)

while officials said crews were working to clear roads after small landslides in the central mountain town of Utuado and the southeastern town of Yabucoa. Minor flooding was reported in the Caribbean island's southeast.

Several residents in the northern municipality of Bayamon were relocated because a nearby mountain had already experienced landslides in recent weeks amid persistent wet weather.

The storm was expected to drop up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) of rain in central Puerto Rico, and up to

4 inches (10 centimeters) elsewhere in Puerto Rico as well as in the U.S. Virgin Islands and eastern portions of the Dominican Republic. Officials in the U.S. Virgin Islands closed all schools in St. Croix.

Miguel Rios, director of Puerto Rico's emergency management agency, said the storm was interacting with a cluster of weather systems hovering above Puerto Rico's northeastern coast.

"In the next 36 hours, we can experience heavy rains at any moment," he said. "We must remain on alert." □

Obama seeks world leaders' support to strike Syria



A general view of the round table meeting at the G-20 summit at the Konstantin Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013. The threat of missiles over the Mediterranean is weighing on world leaders meeting on the shores of the Baltic this week, and eclipsing economic battles that usually dominate when the G-20 world economies meet.

Continued from front

Obama's public and private diplomatic wrangling partly was intended to ratchet up pressure on lawmakers back in Washington as they debate authorizing military action. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed a use-of-force resolution this week, but the measure's prospects in the full Senate and the House of Representatives are uncertain. The prospect of military action against Syria overshadowed the global growth agenda at the two-day G-20 summit, which opened Thursday in this historic Russian city on the Baltic Sea. Leaders did, however, hold a lengthy discussion about the crisis during a four-hour dinner hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin, one of Syria's strongest backers. The dinner at St. Petersburg's Peterhof Palace stretched into the early hours of Friday and ended with an elaborate fireworks and laser light display.

White House advisers said Obama was seeking "political and diplomatic" support from his international counterparts, not necessarily military cooperation. And Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser, said the type of action the U.S. is contemplating "does not come with significant requirements of international participation." While Obama has long called for the ouster of Assad, a deadly chemical weapons attack near Damascus two weeks ago pushed the U.S. to the brink of military action for the first time during Syria's civil war. The U.S. position on Syria has increased tensions with Putin, one of Assad's most important economic and military backers. Putin has blocked efforts at the United Nations to take action and has questioned intelligence reports American officials say link the chemical weapon deployment to the Syrian leader. British Prime Minister David Cameron said Thursday that the United Kingdom had fresh evidence that

was being examined at British laboratories. Ahead of the U.S. president's arrival in St. Petersburg, Putin told The Associated Press in an interview that it was "completely ridiculous" to assert that Assad was behind the use of deadly gases against Syrian citizens. The Kremlin also announced it was boosting its naval presence in the Mediterranean, where the U.S. has five destroyers on standby for a military strike. In keeping with the economic theme of the meeting, Chinese officials said military action would have a negative impact on the global economy, particularly oil prices. The European Union also was skeptical about the effectiveness of military action. EU President Herman Van Rompuy told reporters in St. Petersburg that the August chemical weapons attack "was a blatant violation of international law and a crime against humanity," but he said a political, not military, solution was needed in Syria. "While respecting the re-

cent calls for action, we underscore at the same time the need to move forward with addressing the Syrian crisis through the U.N. process," Van Rompuy said. The U.S., too, backs a political resolution in Syria, but has largely given up on efforts at the U.N., where Russia has blocked Security Council efforts to punish Assad. Rhodes said Thursday that the Obama administration was "highly skeptical" that Russia would take a different posture if the U.S. sought new resolutions at the Security Council. At the U.N. on Thursday, U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power said "Russia continues to hold the Council hostage and shirks its international responsibilities." She blamed the structure of the Security Council, which lets five major nations hold veto power — Russia, the United States, China, France and Britain. In Syria itself, Assad's troops battled al-Qaida-linked rebels for a second day over the government-held Christian village of Maaloula. Rami Abdul-Rahman,

(AP Photo/Sergei Karpukhin) the director of the Britain-based Observatory for Human Rights, said the fighters included members of the of al-Qaida affiliated Jabhat al-Nusra group. For much of last week, it appeared Obama was ready to launch a strike against Assad's government without authorization from either the U.N. or the U.S. Congress. But he made an abrupt reversal on Saturday, announcing he would hold off on a military response and ask Congress for a vote in support. The White House has refused to say whether Obama would go forward with a strike if lawmakers vote against using force. With one eye on Washington, Obama on Thursday lobbied lawmakers from afar, and he canceled a planned trip to California for next week to stay in Washington and make his case as votes near. Back home, his administration continued its full-scale sales job with another round of closed-door meetings for lawmakers about intelligence on Syria. □

Lawyer: George Zimmerman's wife filing for divorce

KYLE HIGHTOWER

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) —

George Zimmerman's wife filed for divorce Thursday, less than two months after her husband was acquitted of murdering teenager Trayvon Martin and a week after she pleaded guilty to perjury in his case.

Shellie Zimmerman made the decision because of "disappointment," her attorney, Kelly Sims, wrote Thursday in a short email to The Associated Press. The 26-year-old Zimmerman told ABC's "Good Morning America" last week that she was having serious doubts about remaining married.

She pleaded guilty last week to a misdemeanor perjury charge for lying during a bail hearing following her husband's arrest for the February 2012 shooting of 17-year-old Martin in a gated community outside of Orlando, Florida. Her husband wasn't in the courtroom as she was sentenced to a year's probation and 100 hours of community service — even though she supported him and lied about their finances.

ABC first reported the divorce filing. Email messages and phone calls to Zimmerman's attorney, Mark O'Mara, were not immediately returned.

George Zimmerman was acquitted on second-degree murder and other charges in July.

The case continues to stoke racial tensions across the country. Many speakers cited the case during commemorations of the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech" in Washington last month.

Martin, who was black, was unarmed as he walked back to the home of his father's fiancée after going to the store. Zimmerman, who identifies as Hispanic and was a neighborhood watchman, began following Martin because he thought the teenager was acting suspiciously. He says he shot the Martin in self-defense during a fight.

In the interview, Shellie Zimmerman revealed she wasn't at their home the night of Martin's shooting

because she'd had a fight with her husband.

"I was staying at my father's house," she said.

"We had gotten into an argument the night before and I left." Shellie Zimmerman says that while she

believes her husband's version of the events leading to the shooting, "I can't tell you how many nights I've gone or laid awake at night just thinking that I wish to God the circumstances had been different."

She says the couple lived in hiding while awaiting his trial. Shellie Zimmerman admitted she did not tell the truth during the bail hearing.

"I can rationalize a lot of reasons for why I was misleading, but the truth is that I knew I was lying," she said.

She said she plans to do her community service with a Christian ministry.

"I've made mistakes and I want to own them right now," Shellie Zimmerman said. She also told ABC she is deeply sorry for the Martin family's loss. "I can't even begin to understand the grief a parent experiences when they lose a child," she said. □



Shellie Zimmerman, wife of George Zimmerman, smiles with her attorney Kelly Sims while reviewing paperwork at the Seminole County Courthouse in Sanford, Fla. Zimmerman's wife filed for divorce Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013 less than two months after her husband was acquitted of murdering Trayvon Martin and a week after she pleaded guilty to perjury in his case.

(AP Photo/Joe Burbank)

US: Hunter caused huge wildfire near Yosemite



A Hotshot fire crew member rests near a controlled burn operation at Horseshoe Meadows, as crews continue to fight the Rim Fire near Yosemite National Park in California.

(AP Photo/U.S. Forest Service, Mike McMillan)

TRACIE CONE

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, California

(AP) — A gigantic wildfire

in and around Yosemite National Park was caused by an illegal fire set by a hunter, the U.S. Forest Service said Thursday.

The agency said there is no indication the hunter was

involved with illegal marijuana cultivation, which a local fire chief had speculated as the possible cause of the blaze.

No arrests have been made, and the hunter's name was being withheld pending further investigation, according to the Forest Service. The only legal

hunting allowed at the time the fire started Aug. 17 was archery for bear and deer.

A Forest Service statement gave no details on how the illegal fire in a remote canyon of the Stanislaus National Forest had escaped the hunter's control.

Because of high fire dan-

ger across the region, the Forest Service had banned fires outside of developed camping areas more than a week before the fire started.

The Rim Fire has burned nearly 371 square miles (961 square kilometers) — one of the largest wildfires in California history and has cost \$81 million to fight. In some cases, people who have started wildfires in California have been sued to pay for the costs and damages.

Forest Service spokesman Ray Mooney said he was not immediately able to get more information from investigators. The Tuolumne County District Attorney's Office also assisted in the investigation, but declined to comment.

Officials said 111 structures, including 11 homes, have been destroyed. Thousands of firefighters were called in to battle the blaze, which at one point threatened more than 4,000 structures. The blaze is now 80 percent contained. □

Ohio: Ariel Castro's family prepares to claim his body

JULIE CARR SMYTH

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The family of Cleveland kidnapper Ariel Castro planned to claim his body Thursday as investigations sought to determine how a man who was perhaps Ohio's most notorious prisoner managed to hang himself with a bedsheet while in protective custody. Castro was a month into his life sentence for holding three women captive in his home for a decade when he committed suicide Tuesday night.

Ohio prisons spokeswoman JoEllen Smith said two reviews ordered Wednesday by Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Director Gary Mohr were under way. One inquiry will look into the suicide itself, and the other is examining whether Castro received proper medical and mental health care leading up to the suicide.

Smith said Castro's family members were claiming his body from the coroner's office Thursday.

Castro, 53, had been taken off suicide watch while in

county jail and was in protective custody in prison, which involves checks every 30 minutes.

He had been sentenced Aug. 1 to life in prison plus 1,000 years after pleading guilty to 937 counts, including kidnapping and rape, in a deal to avoid the death penalty. "I'm not a monster. I'm sick," he told the judge at sentencing. Castro's captives — Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michelle Knight — disappeared separately between 2002 and 2004, when they were 14, 16 and 20. They were rescued from Castro's run-down house May 6 when Berry broke through a screen door.

Elation over the women's rescue turned to shock as details emerged about their captivity. Castro fathered a child with Berry while she was being held. The girl was 6 when she was freed. Investigators said the women were bound, repeatedly raped and deprived of food and bathroom facilities.

Berry's cousin Tina Miller said Thursday the suicide showed Castro was not as



Ariel Castro sits in a Cleveland courtroom where he pleaded guilty to 937 counts of rape and kidnapping. Castro, 53, serving a life sentence for the kidnapping and rape, was found hanging in his cell, Tuesday night, Sept. 3, 2013, at the Correctional Reception Center in Orient, Ohio.

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

strong as the three women he kidnapped, raped and imprisoned.

"Killing yourself, that's not strength. Surviving it is strength, and that's what them girls did — they survived it for 11, 10 and 9 years," said Miller.

Tito DeJesus, who knew Castro for two decades and often played in bands with him, said he wasn't shocked by the suicide, especially given Castro's reference to taking his life in a 2004 note police found

when they searched the house.

"It was either he killed himself or somebody was go-

ing to do it," DeJesus, 39, of Cleveland, said Thursday.

"He wasn't going to last long in prison." □

US worker:

Leak about Obama's aunt not political

ALICIA A. CALDWELL

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Homeland Security Department employee has acknowledged that he disclosed to The Associated Press days before the 2008 election that President Barack Obama's aunt was living in the U.S. illegally and said he did not reveal the information for political reasons.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Professional Responsibility released a 20-page report from August 2010 about its investigation in the case. The Huffington Post reported on it Thursday.

The report said the employee, whose name was censored in publicly released versions of the report, told internal investigators that he confirmed Zeituni On-

yango's immigration status to the AP "because regardless of political affiliation ... I think the American public has a right to know." Citing two separate unnamed sources, including one identified only as a federal law enforcement official, the AP disclosed in October 2008 that Onyango, a Kenya native, had been instructed to leave the United States in 2004 by a U.S. immigration judge who denied her asylum request.

The AP is continuing to withhold the names of its sources for the story. In a statement Thursday, AP spokesman Paul Colford said, "We never comment on our sources."

The government's investigation, which lasted nearly two years, was an early harbinger of the Obama

administration's aggressive approach tracking down leakers.

An immigration judge approved Onyango's asylum request in 2010.

According to the investigative report, the employee denied discussing Onyango's immigration status until May 2010. He initially told investigators he spoke with an AP reporter only about getting together socially. After acknowledging that he was AP's source, the employee told investigators the decision was an "error in judgment." He said, "I had no political motivations," and told investigators that if he were trying to release information surreptitiously, he would have used a pay phone, not his office or cell phone. "I knew that would be a matter of record," he said. □

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Judge allows release of US woman in son's death

PAUL DAVENPORT
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — A judge is allowing an Arizona woman to be released on bail as she awaits retrial in the

Milke with the death of her 4-year-old son other than a purported confession, and the validity of that confession is in doubt.

A federal appeals court

about when Milke could be released.

Milke's lawyers had asked that she be released on \$50,000 bond so she could stay at a home that sup-

and told him he was going to see Santa Claus at a mall in December 1989. Two men, Roger Scott and former Milke roommate James Styers, took the boy to the desert and shot him. Neither testified at Milke's trial, and both sit on death row.

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office is again pursuing the death penalty against the 49-year-old Milke, who has maintained her innocence.

The alleged confession is at the heart of the prosecution case against her.

A police detective, Armando Saldate Jr., testified at Milke's trial that she confessed to him in a closed interrogation room.

Saldate's honesty was called into question during Milke's appeals. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals concluded that prosecutors' failure to turn over evidence related to Saldate's credibility deprived Milke's attorneys of the chance to question his truthfulness before jurors.

While Deputy County Attorney Vince Imbordino had argued that the purported confession is still admissible, Mroz said the undisclosed material concerning Saldate "casts serious doubt" on its validity. □



Debra Jean Milke listens to a judge during a hearing as she awaits a retrial in the 1989 shooting death of her 4-year-old son, Christopher, at Maricopa County Superior Court in Phoenix. A judge is allowing Milke to be released on bail as she awaits retrial in the 1989 killing of her young son, a case that had her on death row since 1990 until her conviction was overturn this year.

(AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

1989 killing of her young son, a case that had her on death row since 1990 until her conviction was overturn this year.

Judge Rosa Mroz on Thursday set bond for Debra Milke at \$250,000. Mroz's order said there was no direct evidence linking

overturned Milke's conviction, ruling that the prosecution should have disclosed information about the truthfulness of a since-retired detective who testified that Milke confessed.

Defense attorney Michael Kimerer did not immediately respond to queries

porters have bought in the Phoenix area.

During an Aug. 30 hearing, a prosecutor asked Mroz to deny bail but said if bail was allowed, it should be set it at \$5 million.

Authorities say Milke dressed her son Christopher in his favorite outfit

Cartel leader's brother gets 20 years in prison

CHRIS TOMLINSON
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The brother of two Mexican cartel leaders was sentenced to 20 years in prison on Thursday for running a money laundering operation from a sprawling horse ranch in Oklahoma.

A federal judge in Texas sentenced Jose Trevino Morales, who was found guilty of investing \$16 million of drug money in the buying, training and racing of horses across the Southwest. His brothers, Miguel Angel and Oscar Omar Trevino Morales, are believed to lead the Zetas cartel, which has expanded beyond the drug trade to become the biggest criminal group in Mexico. Mexican authorities arrested Miguel Angel Tre-

vino Morales in July. A New York indictment against him estimates he received



FBI agents overlook a horse ranch under investigation in Lexington, Okla. A federal judge in Texas sentenced Jose Trevino Morales, the brother of two Mexican cartel leaders to 20 years in prison on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013, for running a money laundering operation from the horse ranch in Oklahoma.

(AP Photo/Brett Deering)

\$10 million per month in income from cocaine sales alone, not to mention the money brought in by the cartel's myriad illicit activities, including kidnapping, extortion, migrant traffick-

ing, weapons trafficking, even theft of oil from state pipelines.

During the horse operation trial earlier this year, prosecutors said the money laundering operation in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico created fake companies and in some cases

fixed races. Horse owners, trainers and others crafted bank deposits to mask the drug money being used to fund the operation.

Jose Trevino Morales was among 18 people indicted last year in a federal investigation that charged him with running the horse operation from a sprawling ranch near Lexington, Oklahoma, on behalf of his brothers. Neighbors said those who worked with the ranch spent lots of cash, bought land and made improvements at a time when others in the industry were struggling financially. More than 400 of the horses involved were seized and auctioned, and proceeds from the sales have netted the government \$9 million, according to the U.S. attorney's office. □

US: Trader will settle insider trade charges

MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. regulators say a resident of Thailand has agreed to pay \$5.2 million to settle civil charges of trading on inside knowledge of a takeover bid for Smithfield Foods Inc. by a big Chinese company.

The Securities and Exchange Commission announced the settlement Thursday with Badin Rungruangnavarat, an employee of a Thai plastics company.

The SEC accused him in June of making \$3.2 million in illegal profits by using knowledge of the proposed Smithfield takeover before it was announced publicly on May 29.

The agency says the man bought options and futures contracts on Smithfield stock in the week preceding the announcement and reaped a profit when the stock price rose afterward.

Rungruangnavarat neither admitted nor denied the allegations.

He is paying \$3.2 million in restitution and a \$2 million fine. The settlement was approved by a federal judge in Chicago.

The SEC said Rungruangnavarat's possible sources for the confidential information included a Facebook friend who worked at an investment bank that had advised a Thai company considering its own bid for Smithfield.

The agency won an asset freeze against Rungruangnavarat in June to prevent him from transferring money from his U.S. brokerage account overseas.

One of Rungruangnavarat's attorneys, Pravin Rao, said Thursday, "We're pleased on behalf of our client that we could reach a mutually-agreed settlement with the SEC so quickly."

The U.S. company, based in Smithfield, Virginia, is the world's largest pork producer and processor. □



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US Financial Front:

Applications for American jobless aid near 5-year low

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits dropped 9,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 323,000, near the lowest level since June 2008. The figure shows employers are laying off fewer and fewer workers, an encouraging sign one day before the government will issue its August jobs report. Weekly applications are just 1,000 above a five-year low reached last month, the Labor Department said Thursday. The four week average, a less volatile measure, declined 3,000 to 328,500. That's the lowest point since October 2007 — two months before the Great Recession officially began. A private survey released Thursday by the payroll company ADP showed that businesses

added 176,000 jobs in August, roughly in line with the monthly average for the year. Combined, the two

es. Many analysts think the Fed will scale back its bond buying, which has been intended to keep long-term



Job seekers Emilio Ferrer, Brian Ferrer, center, and Jonathan, right, of Hollywood, Fla., talk to a FirstService representative at a job fair in Miami Lakes, Fla. The Labor Department reported a near 5-year low on the number of Americans who applied for unemployment benefits last week, on September 5, 2013.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

reports point to steady improvement in the job market — a fact the Federal Reserve will weigh when it meets later this month to consider whether to slow its monthly bond purchas-

ing rates near record lows. Applications for unemployment benefits are a proxy for layoffs. They have fallen 5 percent in the past two months, raising hopes that

hiring could pick up.

"Firms continue to be less concerned about cutting labor costs and may be more comfortable with raising them," said Jonathan Basile, an economist at Credit Suisse.

Economists forecast that the August jobs report will show employers added 177,000 jobs, up from 162,000 in July. The unemployment rate is expected to remain 7.4 percent.

Still, the unemployment rate is well above the 5 percent to 6 percent range associated with a normal economy. In addition, most of the growth this year in the number of people working is due to fewer layoffs rather than strong

hiring. Job growth is the number of people hired minus the number who lose or quit jobs. When companies are laying off few workers, it doesn't take many hires to create solid growth in the number working.

Nearly 4.4 million Americans received unemployment benefits in the week that ended Aug. 17, the latest period for which figures are available. That's about 70,000 fewer than the previous week. A year ago, 5.5 million Americans were receiving benefits.

Many of the jobs created in recent months have been lower-paying, part-time positions in industries such as hotels, restaurants and retail. □

United recalls almost 600 pilots from furlough

JOSHUA FREED

AP Airlines Writer

United Airlines said it will call back almost 600 pilots who were furloughed during a time when fuel prices spiked and the Great Recession forced the airline to shrink.

Training for the returning pilots begins next month and will be completed by the end of the year, the airline said.

The returning pilots are the last of 1,437 United pilots furloughed in 2008 and 2009, according to the Air Line Pilots Association. United has about 12,000 pilots. The recall comes as demand for pilots at the big airlines is finally beginning to recover after a decade

of airline bankruptcies, economic disruption, and changing retirement rules that kept senior pilots flying longer instead of retiring. In 2007, the U.S. raised the mandatory retirement age to 65, from 60. That means that in late 2012 pilots who had stuck around for those extra five years began retiring, creating demand for new aviators to replace them.

In addition, pilots will require more time off between flights under new federal rules that take effect next year, which creates a need for more pilots.

Delta Air Lines Inc. has said it wants to hire 300 pilots starting in November. American Airlines has of-

fered recalls to all of its furloughed pilots, though some have exercised an option to defer their return. US Airways said last month that it would recall the last 66 furloughed America West pilots. Those two airlines merged in 2005. The pilots had been laid off in 2008.

United had already recalled 342 pilots, the pilots union said Thursday, and 600 more took jobs with Continental after those two airlines merged in 2010. The final steps in merging the two pilot groups happened this week, meaning the airline can generally retrain the returning pilots on planes that formerly belonged to either airline. □



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Iran's Rouhani transfers nuclear talks to foreign ministry

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president confirmed Thursday that the foreign ministry will lead nuclear talks with world powers in a shift away from security officials setting Tehran's strategies for the critical negotiations. The report on the website of President Hasan Rouhani's office gave the official stamp on a policy change first indicated last month after Rouhani's inauguration.

Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, a Western-educated diplomat, said members of Iran's nuclear negotiating team have been selected, according to Tasnim, an Iranian news website. Zarif did not name the members of the team but said they are experts with extensive experience. Zarif also said the next round of nuclear talks between Iran and world powers will be held after the September U.N. General Assembly. He did not give a date or place for the talks but said he will meet



Iran's new President Hasan Rouhani waves to reporters at the presidency compound in Tehran, Iran. Rouhani confirmed Thursday that the foreign ministry will lead nuclear talks with world powers in a shift away from security officials setting Tehran's strategies for the critical negotiations.

(AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi)

with European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton on the sidelines of the assembly. Iran's Supreme National Security Council was previously in charge of nuclear dialogue with the U.S. and other nations. □

European Central Bank chief tamps down optimism

Continued from front

Draghi's remarks were unexpectedly pessimistic and could dampen the hopes of some economists and political leaders that the eurozone is finally improving, after a stubborn recession that has pushed unemployment to more than 25 percent in Spain and Greece.

The central bank also revised its forecast for eurozone growth in 2014 to 1 percent from 1.1 percent. The bank may not welcome undue optimism about the eurozone economy because it could cause market interest rates to rise and make credit even more unaffordable for the businesses and households in Southern Europe that need it most.

"Mr. Draghi believes investors are jumping the gun on the state of the eurozone economy and is providing a reality check in an effort to talk down market rates," Nicholas Spiro, managing director of Spiro Sovereign Strategy, said by email. European stocks rose and the dollar reached a six-week high against the euro while Draghi spoke, as investors took his words as a sign the bank would keep interest rates low.

On Thursday in Britain, which does not use the euro currency, the Bank of England also held interest rates at a record low, as policymakers there, too, were reluctant to celebrate tentative signs of an economic recovery. Draghi indicated that the bank's Governing Council, which held its monthly monetary policy meeting Thursday, had not ruled out further cuts in the benchmark interest rate. During the debate Thursday, he said, some members argued against a cut because of signs of better growth, while others noted that growth remained tentative. Some analysts agreed that it was too soon for optimism about the eurozone economy. □

European stocks rose and the dollar reached a six-week high against the euro while Draghi spoke, as investors took his words as a sign the bank would keep interest rates low.

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Egypt's interior minister escapes assassination attempt

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's interior minister narrowly escaped an assassination attempt Thursday when a suspected car bomb tore through his convoy, wounding 22 people and leaving a major Cairo boulevard strewn with debris — the first such attack since the military ousted the Islamist president.

The strike, which left several other charred cars and broken building facades, escalates the confrontation between the new leadership and Islamists. It also hiked fears of a militant campaign of revenge for the coup and raised the likelihood of an even tougher hand by authorities against protesters demanding Mohammed Morsi's return to office.

The interim president and other officials immediately compared the attack to

the days of the Islamic militant insurgency of the 1980s and 1990s, when radicals battling security forces in the south also attempted numerous assassinations. Militants failed in attempts on the lives of at least four successive interior ministers, the last in 1993, and succeeded in killing the parliament speaker.

The insurgency also provided then-autocratic ruler Hosni Mubarak with one justification for maintaining a state of emergency nationwide for his entire rule, lifted only after he was driven from power by an uprising in 2011.

Since Morsi's ouster in the July 3 coup, Egypt has been back under emergency law, and police have arrested nearly 2,000 members of his Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamist supports.

In mid-August, authorities moved in on two pro-Morsi

sit-ins in Cairo after days of warnings, forcefully dispersing the crowd. In the process, hundreds were killed

and counter-violence was set in motion, as government buildings, police stations and churches came

under attack around the country.

Islamic hard-liners have stepped up attacks on security forces in the Sinai Peninsula and in the south, tried to rocket a ship in the strategic Suez Canal, and have increasingly brought attacks to the capital.

But Thursday's bombing against Mohammed Ibrahim, who heads the police waging the crackdown the past two months, was a substantial escalation.

Interim President Adly Mansour's office vowed in a statement that it would "not allow the terrorism that the Egyptian people crushed in the 1980s and 90s to raise its ugly head again." Military leader Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, the man who ousted Morsi, vowed to continue the fight against terrorism.

Speakers on state TV and affiliated media urged citizens to exercise caution, report suspicious activities or individuals, and called on authorities to widen their crackdown on suspected terrorists to prevent the recurrence of such attacks. □



Black smoke billows from a burning car moments after a bomb attack targeted the convoy of Egypt's Interior Minister Mohammed Ibrahim, in Nasr City, Egypt, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013. It was the first attack on a senior government official since a coup toppled the country's Islamist president July 3, 2013.
(AP Photo/Ahmed Soliman)

2 Koreas to restore military hotline

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea agreed Thursday to restore a cross-border military hotline with South Korea, in another sign of easing tensions between the rivals in recent weeks, the South Korean government said.

North Korea in March shut down the telephone and fax lines used to coordinate cross-border travel to a joint industrial park in Kaesong that has since been shuttered. During the spring, North Korea issued a series of threats including vows to launch nuclear strikes on Seoul and Washington, but later dialed down its rhetoric and made conciliatory gestures. On Thursday, the two Koreas agreed at a meeting in Kaesong to restart the hotline starting Friday, Seoul's Unification Ministry said. The two Koreas

agreed last month to work toward a reopening of the industrial complex, which had been the last symbol of reconciliation between the countries before North Korea suspended its operations in April. In June, the two Koreas restored another communications channel at a border village. But last week, North Korea withdrew its invitation to a U.S. envoy to visit the country to discuss the release of a detained American, citing the alleged participation of U.S. nuclear-capable bombers in annual military exercises between Washington and Seoul. The Korean Peninsula remains officially at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. About 28,000 U.S. troops are deployed in South Korea in a legacy of the war. □





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Pope: Abandon "futile" military solution in Syria

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis urged the Group of 20 leaders on Thursday to abandon the "futile pursuit" of a military solution in Syria as the Vatican laid out its case for a negotiated settlement that guarantees rights for all Syrians, including minority Christians. In a letter to the G-20 host, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Francis lamented that "one-sided interests" had prevailed in Syria, preventing a diplomatic end to the conflict and allowing the continued "senseless massacre" of innocents. "To the leaders present, to each and every one, I make a heartfelt appeal for them to help find ways to overcome the conflicting positions and to lay aside the futile pursuit of a military solution," Francis wrote as the G-20 meeting got under way in St. Petersburg.

Francis has ratcheted up his call for peace in Syria amid threatened U.S.-led military strikes following an Aug. 21 chemical weapons attack near Damascus. But he has also been careful not to lay blame on any one side, exhorting world leaders instead to focus on the plight of Syrian civilians and the need to end the violence.

Francis will host a peace vigil in St. Peter's Square on Saturday, a test of whether his immense popular appeal will translate into popular support for his peace

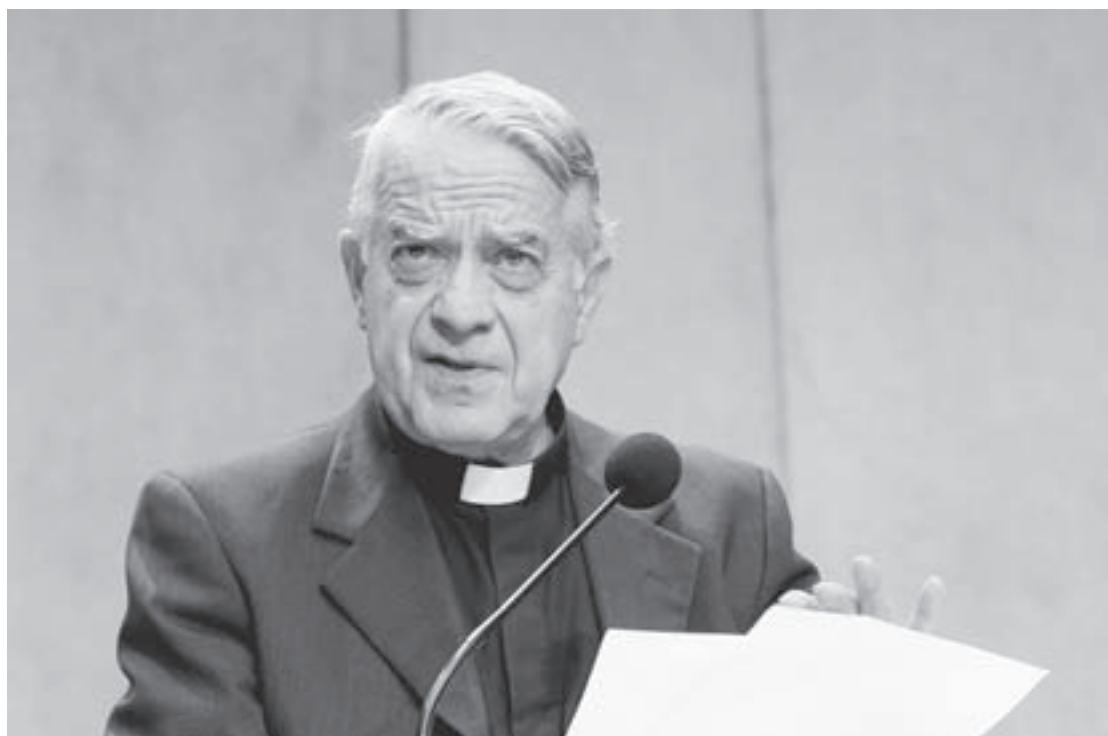
message. It's the first time any such peace rally has been held at the Vatican, though Holy See officials have stressed it's a religious event, not a political protest.

On Thursday, the Vatican summoned ambassadors

those responsible face justice," Mamberti told the 71 ambassadors gathered.

He didn't refer explicitly to the threat of military strikes to punish the Syrian regime for the attack. But he said the main priority must be to stop the violence which

their religion, he said. And he called for the opposition to distance itself from extremists, isolate them "and openly and clearly oppose terrorism" — a reference to the al-Qaida-affiliated rebels fighting against the government.



Vatican spokesman father Federico Lombardi attends a press conference at the Vatican, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013. Pope Francis urged the Group of 20 leaders on Thursday to abandon the "futile pursuit" of a military solution in Syria as the Vatican laid out its case for a peaceful, negotiated settlement instead.

(AP Photo/Riccardo De Luca)

accredited to the Holy See to outline its position on Syria, with Foreign Minister Archbishop Dominique Mamberti noting that the Aug. 21 attack had generated "horror and concern" around the world.

"Confronted with similar acts one cannot remain silent, and the Holy See hopes that the competent institutions make clear what happened and that

he said risked involving other countries and creating "unforeseeable consequences in various parts of the world."

The Vatican, he said, wants a return to dialogue and for the country to not be split up along ethnic or religious lines.

Minorities, including Christians, must have their basic rights guaranteed, including their right to profess

The Assad family's four-decade iron rule over Syria long has rested on support from the country's ethnic and religious minorities, including Christians, Shiite Muslims and Kurds. As a result, the Catholic Church has toed a careful line on Syria, staying largely silent at the start of the civil war even after the regime's brutal crackdown on dissent. □

Afghans blame Pakistanis over mosque attack

AMIR SHAH

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghanistan blamed a Pakistani militant group for an early morning shootout Thursday at a Shiite Muslim mosque in Kabul, while also criticizing alleged anti-Afghan elements in Pakistan's intelligence apparatus.

The statement from Afghanistan's intelligence service is hardly the first time authorities here have criticized Pakistan — which denies any role in fostering violence in its neighbor — but it could deepen animosity between the two countries as both grapple with the drawdown of U.S.-led foreign forces.

The shootout occurred around 4:30 a.m. in the western part of the Afghan capital as worshippers gathered for morning prayers, authorities said.

Afghanistan's intelligence service, the National Directorate of Security, said two heavily armed Pakistani militants entered the mosque intending to kill, but that Afghan security forces managed to shoot them dead. The intelligence service alleged that the militants belonged to Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a Sunni Muslim extremist group based in Pakistan that behind past violence here.

Area police official Hafizullah, who like many Afghans goes by one name, said the suspected militants had been under surveillance, allowing for the quick response by security forces.

A video distributed by the intelligence service showed the bloodied bodies of the alleged militants, who wore police uniforms. But the Afghans did not say how they had determined the identities or origins of the alleged attackers. The men were armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles and other weapons, some of which also were shown on the video.

In its initial statement, the service said three bystanders were wounded. □

Merkel's rivals defend tax plans amid poor polls

GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Chancellor Angela Merkel's opponents defended their plans for tax increases Thursday and dismissed talk of a possible alliance with a hard-left party as polls showed them still trailing badly ahead of Germany's Sept. 22 election. Center-left challenger Peer Steinbrueck's Social Democrats and his allies, the Greens, have struggled to generate any momen-

tum for change against Merkel, a popular conservative. She has hammered away at her rivals' plans to increase income taxes for top earners, arguing that the government's coffers are already in good shape and tax hikes would hurt a healthy economy.

Merkel also is seeking to mobilize supporters by raising the possibility of an alliance between the two center-left parties and the Left Party, which has op-

posed eurozone bailouts and reform plans and is against German military deployments abroad.

Merkel's party "is going to be chasing two ghosts through the streets over the remaining 17 days," Steinbrueck said after meeting with the Greens' leaders. "First, that cold socialism will come in through the back door ... and the other one is that (the Social Democrats) want to collect all handbags, all wallets to rip

people off."

He added it would be impossible to implement "reliable and calculable policies" with the Left Party, which includes ex-communists. The center-left insists top earners should pay more taxes to help finance education and transport infrastructure and reduce Germany's debts. They argue it's not enough to rely on a strong economy to keep boosting the government's tax take. □



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Teachers block approach to Mexico City airport

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Teachers angry over the passage of a national education reform partially blocked the

main approach to Mexico City's airport on Thursday, forcing many passengers to leave their cars and rush

through the streets on foot to catch their flights. Hundreds of police guarded the airport to prevent

the members of a dissident teachers' union from blocking other entrances. Airport management advised pas-

sengers to take alternate routes to the airport, including the subway.

Airport administrators used federal police pickup trucks and other vehicles to transport passengers stranded by protesters. Some airlines, including Aeromexico and Interjet, announced they would not charge any fees to people who have to change their travel time or miss flights.

The blockage caused traffic to back up for miles (kilometers) on one of the city's main highways, increasing simmering public anger at the weeks of teacher protests.

The teachers, mainly from poor southern states, are protesting a just-approved measure that could break union control over the public education system. □



Teachers protest near the Benito Juarez International Airport in Mexico City, Friday, Aug. 23, 2013. Thousands of striking teachers strangled traffic and blocked access to Mexico City's international airport on Friday, flexing their muscles in a bid to block educational reforms intended to introduce teacher evaluations and reduce union power over hiring decisions.

(AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)



Colombia leader's popularity plunges to 21 percent

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos' approval rating has plummeted 27 percentage points to its worst since he took office: 21 percent.

That was the finding of a Gallup poll released this week that was done during the week ending Monday as small farmers demanding lower fertilizer prices blocked roads across the Andean nation.

People gathered in Bogota's main square Wednesday night to bang pots during a rally to support the farmers and chant against the government. Last week, a peaceful protest in the capital of Bogota supporting the farmers devolved into rioting in which two people were killed.

A June Gallup poll gave Santos 48 percent approval. Both polls queried 1,200 people by phone in five cities and had an error margin of three percentage points. Gallup director Jorge Londono said the last Colombian president with such low approval ratings was Andres Pastrana in 1999. □



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Photo shows Archbishop Josef Wesolowski, papal nuncio for the Dominican Republic, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The Vatican's recently ousted ambassador to the Dominican Republic has not been accused of child sex abuse, Roman Catholic Church officials said Thursday.

(AP Photo/Manuel Diaz)

Dominican church: Envoy not accused of sex abuse

EZEQUIEL ABIU LOPEZ

Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — The

Vatican's recently ousted ambassador to the Dominican Republic has not been accused of child sex abuse, Roman Catholic Church officials said Thursday, while refusing to shed any light on the envoy's sudden ouster.

Amid an outcry in the largely Catholic country, and a newly opened investigation by the attorney general's office, senior church leaders portrayed the removal of Archbishop Jozef Wesolowski as an administrative matter.

"Church authorities are always evaluating on an annual basis every priest. It doesn't necessarily mean it's a criminal matter," said the Rev. Manuel Ruiz, who acted as a spokesman for the Dominican church's leadership at a news conference in the capital.

Pedro Joaquin Dominguez, deputy general secretary of the Dominican bishops' conference, said that there have been no accusations of child sex abuse against Wesolowski, who was the Vatican's representative in the country from 2008 until he was removed Aug. 21. Ruiz brushed off questions about the reasons for the sudden dismissal: "You will have to ask the pope," he said.

A Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, confirmed that Wesolowski had been removed

from his post and that the church was conducting an investigation of him. He declined to provide any details about the accusations against the Polish-born prelate or to explain why he was so abruptly removed.

Lombardi said Thursday it was clear the allegations were serious enough to warrant the Vatican recalling Wesolowski and relieving him of his duties pending the outcome of the investigation.

He declined to say which branch of the Holy See was conducting the probe: Wesolowski reports to the Secretariat of State, which presumably would conduct an initial investigation and then decide if the accusations warranted further action. Dominican Attorney General Francisco Dominguez Brito announced that his office would look into the rumors of alleged sexual abuse, which surfaced on a national scale in a local television report that showed video images of Wesolowski walking along the waterfront of the capital and drinking beer by himself.

The leader of a community organization in a small mountain town who was quoted in the broadcast as saying Wesolowski slept in the same room as several altar boys also appeared at the news conference and said his words had been taken out of context. "It's all a lie," Pedro Espinal said of the report. □

Brazil:

Advance team's trip to DC canceled

BRADLEY BROOKS

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

President Dilma Rousseff canceled a trip to Washington by a team of aides preparing for her scheduled visit to the U.S. next month and later met privately with President Barack Obama at a summit in Russia amid Brazil's concerns about U.S. spying, officials said Thursday.

The cancellation of the advance team visit was a further sign of the escalating tension with the U.S. over a Globo TV report this week that the National Security Agency's spy program di-

rectly targeted the communications of Rousseff and her top aides. Rousseff, while weighing canceling her U.S. visit, is still scheduled to travel to Washington in late October. She was given the only invitation for a full state dinner scheduled this year, an honor meant to demonstrate the growing importance of Latin America's largest nation and a particular nod to Rousseff, whose

foreign policy since taking office on Jan. 1, 2011, has been more U.S.-friendly than her predecessor's. The White House said Obama and Rousseff met after the first plenary session at the Group of 20 meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia. It didn't release details of their conversation, but a U.S. official said earlier that Obama planned to discuss Brazil's concerns with her. Calls to a Rousseff spokeswoman traveling with the leader rang unanswered. Rousseff's office in Brasilia said it didn't know the leaders had met. The Globo report that aired

tracked patterns of how those aides communicated with one another and also third parties, according to a June 2012 NSA document.

Greenwald said the document, while not containing excerpts of Rousseff communications, made it clear that U.S. officials were reading her emails and text messages. Michael Shifter, president of the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue, said the "distant but cordial" Brazil-U.S. relationship was under threat.

"These revelations are a major blow for the effort to increase trust between the two nations," Shifter said. "To sustain that effort the Obama administration needs to be less dismissive and more forceful and public about the outrageous NSA practices."

He added that it "would be a pity if this situation is not handled well and leads to a deterioration in U.S.-Brazil relations. If that happens, both countries would suffer."

Officials at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia declined to comment on the NSA case or cancellation of the advance team trip to Washington.

Obama's deputy national security adviser, Ben Rhodes, said in St. Petersburg that he had no information about whether Obama or the White House had been informed that Rousseff was canceling the advance team's trip. But he noted that Rousseff and Obama sat next to each other Thursday at one of the sessions during the Group of 20 summit in Russia. □



Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff stands among other Latin American leaders at the UNASUR summit in Paramaribo, Suriname. Rousseff canceled a trip to Washington by a team of aides preparing for her scheduled visit to the U.S. next month.

(AP Photo/Ertugrul Kilic)

rectly targeted the communications of Rousseff and her top aides. Rousseff, while weighing canceling her U.S. visit, is still scheduled to travel to Washington in late October. She was given the only invitation for a full state dinner scheduled this year, an honor meant to demonstrate the growing importance of Latin America's largest nation and a particular nod to Rousseff, whose

Sunday was based on NSA documents leaked by Edward Snowden to U.S. journalist Glenn Greenwald, who lives in Rio de Janeiro and worked with the network on the story. Most of Greenwald's stories on the NSA program have been published in Britain's Guardian newspaper. The report said the U.S. agency mapped out the aides with whom Rousseff communicated and

tracked patterns of how those aides communicated with one another and also third parties, according to a June 2012 NSA document.

Puerto Rico to debate medical marijuana

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Legislators in Puerto Rico are preparing to debate a bill that would allow people to use marijuana for medicinal purposes in the conservative U.S. territory. Rep. Jose Baez, one of the two authors, said Thursday that the measure would create a system to legally

produce the substance and allow state health officials to regulate it.

The bill calls for a classification of medical conditions and requirements that would allow patients to smoke marijuana in their homes. Conditions would range from cancer to glaucoma to anxiety.

The proposal comes shortly after the U.S. federal government pledged not to prosecute or block state pot-legalization laws on the condition that states enact strict and effective regulations. Opponents to the Puerto Rico measure say it would foster drug addiction and lead to more crime. □



At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa: Biba Aruba Festival delivers entertainment under the stars



PALM BEACH - On Tuesday afternoon, all roads lead to the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa pool deck, as Biba Aruba Festival unfold at sunset, rimming with great food, steel-band music, Carnival dancers, a brass band, fire-eaters, twin-acrobats and stilt walkers for a spectacular Caribbean show under the stars. Guests come early, and leave late, feasting on chef-prepared food-offerings including barbecued

boneless chicken, spare ribs, chorizo with chimichuri, authentic seafood paella, corn on the cob, baked beans, potato salad and coleslaw, over bottomless tropical cocktails and libations. Some guests frolic in the pool between bites, some get up to dance. A great number of the island's artisans set up their displays at the edge of the pool deck, loaded with hand-made souvenirs, cigars, figurines, jewelry and crochet work,



welcoming browsers and shoppers as the kids are entertained in the jumping castle. The atmosphere is truly relaxed and fun, as the sun sets on another glorious Caribbean vacation day.

The most charming Touch Of Steel Orchestra plays from the early evening hours classic Caribbean hits and the island's most popular Carnival tunes. Emceed by Randall Boekhouder, the resort's director of activities, guests are then introduced to dancing and juggling stilt walkers, just before the arrival of the marching brass band,



an enchanting evening at the Radisson.

The entertainment wraps up with three most exciting performances. A talented juggler with a giant steel cube, spins his magic just ahead of the twin acrobats and the death-defying fire eater, who dances and spews live flames, against the by-now-almost-completely-dark evening sky. General manager Mark Lyttleton-Frances explains

the evening is designed to entertain locals and visitors, with reasonably priced food and drink -- the BBQ is just \$20 -- showcasing Aruba's music and culture al-fresco, in a laid back, inviting setting, that of the beautiful gardens and beach front of the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. Everyone is welcome, he says, please join us, come one, come all, he concludes. □



followed by the gorgeous and colorful fully-costumed Carnival dancers.

The conga line wraps around the pool as guests follow the feather and glitter clad revelers, taking pictures and posing with family members and kids for souvenir snapshots from



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MALMOK- At the romantic cove in Boca Catalina, cups of the Jolly Pirates colorful signature brew, Pirates Poison were raised the day Aruba Lovers Doreen and Will Carson renewed their 25th Wedding Anniversary Vows aboard. In keeping with the Jolly Pirates tradition, the starry eyed couple from Atlanta exchanged the ship's bright orange life rings as Captain Ron performed the light-hearted ceremony. Heartfelt congratulations were well received from Doreen and Will Carson's twenty family members who were aboard to partake in the perfect



pleasure sail. Other shipmates all delighted in the ceremony and were enthusiastic about the day's festivities.

newal ceremonies each month. There is no charge for a Jolly Pirates vow renewal ceremony, which can be



conducted during any of the Jolly Pirate cruises offered. Renewals can be requested onboard or in ad-

vance when making your reservation for your trip. Private weddings and wedding receptions complete with cake, champagne, flowers, music, photographers and whatever else you might require to make your day extra special, can also be arranged. Please visit www.jolly-pirates.com for additional information, give the pirates a shout at their souvenir shop on the MooMba Beach or call them at 586-8107 or after hours at 592-7858. □

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Big Bugaloe Cheers to Chris & Courtney from Chicago!

PALM BEACH – Bugaloe's guests of the week are Chris and Courtney Kozlowski from Chicago, Illinois. They have been coming to Aruba for 15 years and discovered Bugaloe only 5 years after their first arrival. The last 10 years they have been coming to the bar religiously. Chris and Courtney have become real friends with the Bugaloe staff and therefore always ends up partying till late with the Crew. What they like best about Bugaloe is the crazy bunch of staff that always gives them a warm welcome when they arrive. Their favorite menu item is the coconut shrimp and the curly fries which easily goes down with their favorite drinks; an ice cold Balashi or TIC TACS! Lots of TicTacs, to be precise...Chris explains laughing: 'Every night that starts with a TicTac is one with some great memories in the making!' One of their funniest memories is when they saw bartender Erik get hurt by a chicken, enough said! Mostly they like Aruba for living the "Coconut Life" a.k.a Relaxing. The Bugaloe crew would like to thank Chris and Courtney for being such loyal Bugaloe guests and hope to see them come in and enjoy some 'Coconut Living' again soon! ☐



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Murray makes unexpected exit at U.S. Open

EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After one set, Andy Murray slammed his racket into the court, then mangled it once he reached his chair on the sideline. After the second, he gestured over to his coach, Ivan Lendl, and let out a frustrated scream. Stanislas Wawrinka had the U.S. Open defending champion in knots all day, and when the surprisingly short, less-than-competitive match was finished, Murray was a 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 upset loser in the quarterfinals at Flushing Meadows on Thursday.

"I would have liked to have played a little bit better," Murray said after rushing off the court and into the interview room to explain the loss. "I've had a good run the last couple of years. It's a shame I had to play a bad match today."

Continued on page 20



Andy Murray, of Great Britain, reacts during a break between sets after losing the first two sets to Stanislas Wawrinka, of Switzerland, during the quarterfinals of the 2013 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013, in New York. Associated Press

Gilbert wins 12th Vuelta stage, Nibali keeps lead

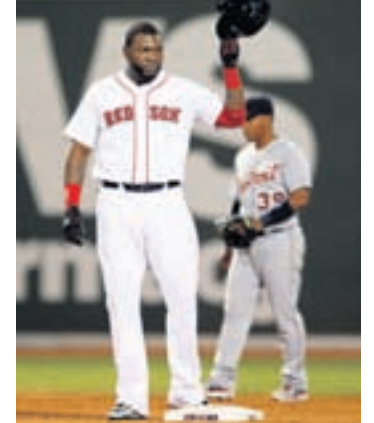
TARRAGONA, Spain (AP) — World champion Philippe Gilbert won the 12th stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Thursday, and Vincenzo Nibali retained the leader's jersey. Gilbert, a Belgian riding for BMC, caught Edvald Boasson and moved past him in the final meters (yards) to cross first ahead of the pack in the 164-kilometer (102-mile) stage from Maella to Tarragona on the Mediterranean coast.

Gilbert's first stage win of the season comes before he will have a chance to defend his title at the world road race championships in Florence, Italy, this month. "I think this year has been very hard for me and I am very happy to win my first victory," said Gilbert. "I want to thank everybody that has trusted me all this season, and my family, of course. It's special for me because I have some fam-

ily here in Catalonia." Gilbert won in 4 hours. Boasson of Norway crossed second after appearing to have the win in his grasp. Argentine Maximiliano Richeze finished third. The relatively flat ride didn't cause any major changes at the top of the overall classification. Nibali lost two seconds of his lead, seeing it reduced to 31 seconds over Nicolas Roche. □



Belgium's Philippe Gilbert celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the 12th stage of the Spanish Vuelta, a 164.2 km-kilometer (102 mile) ride, starting in Maella and finishing in Tarragona, Tarragona, Spain, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013.



Boston Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz acknowledges the crowd after hitting a double for his 2,000th career hit during the sixth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013. Detroit Tigers second baseman Ramon Santiago (39) is in background.

Associated Press

AL Capsules Red Sox hit 8 homers, rout Tigers

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — David Ortiz hit two of Boston's eight homers and also doubled for his 2,000th career hit on Wednesday night to lead the Red Sox to a 20-4 romp over the Detroit Tigers.

Will Middlebrooks hit a grand slam, Ortiz had an RBI double to reach the milestone and Daniel Nava added a two-run homer when Boston pulled away with an eight-run sixth inning. Ortiz homered again in the five-run seventh — the 427th of his career to move past Billy Williams and into 47th on baseball's all-time home run list.

AL East-leading Boston has won nine of 11, taking two out of three from the Central-leading Tigers to hold onto the best record in the league. But after scores of 3-0 and 2-1 in the first two games of the series, the Red Sox burst out with a franchise record-tying eight homers and a season-high 20 runs.

Continued on page 21

Fast catamarans will be the stars in America's Cup

BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Super fast and always just a mistake away from mayhem, the boats will be the stars when the 34th America's Cup starts on Saturday between defending champion Oracle Team USA and challenger Emirates Team New Zealand. The 72-foot (22-meter) catamarans are powered by 131-foot (40-meter) mainsails that look and perform like jetliner wings. When the boats reach "takeoff speed," both hulls pop out of the water on hydrofoils and fly across the tops of the waves on San Francisco Bay.

"When you're foiling, the sensation is just like a turbo boost," Oracle Team USA skipper Jimmy Spithill said. His rival, ETNZ's Dean Barker, calls it "an amazing sensation" to be speeding over the water on the seven-ton boat, sometimes faster than 50 mph (80 kph), supported only by winglets on the bottom of the two rudders and a hydrofoil on the bottom of a daggerboard on the bottom of the leeward hull.

While wing mainsails aren't new in the America's Cup, foiling is.

The Kiwis were the first to do it and the American syndicate was quick to learn how to get the hulls out of the water to reduce drag and increase speed. Given the right conditions, the boats should be foiling on the first leg on Saturday, a reach across the wind to the first mark, where the boats will turn downwind.



Oracle Team USA passes a decommissioned Navy ship being towed out to sea during training for the America's Cup sailing event Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013, in San Francisco. The first races between Oracle Team USA and Emirates Team New Zealand are on Saturday.

Associated Press

Whichever boat is first to the first mark may very well win the race since passing lanes will be scarce on the five-leg course.

"It's a really cool sensation," Barker said. "The boat, as it comes up out of the water, it accelerates and you gain three, four, five knots of boat speed just as the hull actually pops clear and you take off. Everything sort of lightens up, the loads decrease and you go faster and faster."

The Kiwis set the race record of 54 mph (87 kph) during the Louis Vuitton Cup final against Italy.

This regatta has been marred by the death of British sailor Andrew "Bart" Simpson when Artemis Racing capsized on a training run on May 9, and by a scandal in which Oracle

Team USA illegally modified prototype boats in warmup regattas last year and this year. Oracle was docked two points in the best-of-17 America's Cup match — meaning it must win 11 races to retain the trophy — and Dirk de Ridder, who trimmed the wing sail, was booted from the competition.

If anything can save the regatta, it'll be the boats.

This America's Cup is all about trying to make the staid old competition more TV- and fan-friendly. For the first time in its 162-year history, the sailing will be inshore on a short course. A bonus, of course, is the backdrop. The starting line is parallel to the Golden Gate Bridge, and the course stretches just past Alcatraz Island. The finish line is just off Piers 27-29,

with the Transamerica pyramid and Coit Tower in the background.

"You can take the people to the sailing out on the ocean or you can bring the sailing to the people," said Tom Speer, a retired U.S. Air Force officer who is Oracle Team USA's aero and sail design leader. "If you want the people to be able to see the sailing up close and really feel like they're part of the event, then I think you need the kind of short-course sailing we're doing in this edition of the America's Cup. Then you need a boat that's exciting to watch and is maneuverable."

The foils on the bottom of the rudders are like the horizontal stabilizers on the tail of an airplane. The foil on the daggerboard, often shaped like a J, is like the

upturned winglets on the ends of jetliners' wings.

The daggerboards, made of carbon fiber, weigh about 400 pounds (180 kilograms). Not only do they lift the seven-ton boat out of the water, but they must resist about four tons of side load, said Pete Melvin, a designer with Team New Zealand.

A key element of racing is mastering the foiling gybe, when the boat changes course while zigzagging downwind. The crew must lower the daggerboard on one hull while raising the other daggerboard. The goal is keep the boat on the foils and not let the hulls touch the water, which can slow it down.

Mastering foiling gybes throughout a race can be worth a total of several hundred meters, Barker said.

Keeping control, though, is key. Spithill was at the helm when Oracle's first boat capsized during training last autumn.

In the opening race of the Louis Vuitton Cup final, the Kiwi boat took a nosedive after being hit from behind by a strong gust of wind, tossing two crewmen overboard. Spithill, who got his pilot's license before the 2010 America's Cup in order to better understand the wing sail, said riding above the waves on foils has brought a whole new sensation to racing.

"You're so used to feeling the bumps in the waves, and then when you go through them and nothing happens, it's eerie," he said. □

AP source: Geno Auriemma returning to U.S. women's team

DOUG FEINBERG

AP Basketball Writer

Connecticut head coach Geno Auriemma waves to fans after the women's NCAA Final Four college basketball ...

Geno Auriemma will return to coach the U.S. women's basketball team at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, a person with knowledge of the decision told

The Associated Press.

USA Basketball will discuss the move at a news conference Friday in Connecticut. The person spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday because the appointment of the Connecticut coach has not been announced.

Auriemma will be the first repeat coach for the U.S. women's Olympic basket-

ball team, which has won a gold medal at the past five games. Mike Krzyzewski decided in May he would return to coach the men a third time.

Auriemma's team cruised through the 2012 London Games, winning by an average of 34 points, including an 86-50 rout of France for the title.

Since the end of the Olympics, Auriemma has denied interest in coaching in Rio and repeatedly said he would not return if asked.

The 59-year-old Hall of Famer compared the experience to eating a bowl of his favorite mint chocolate chip ice cream.

"The second bowl doesn't taste as good as the first one," he said. "It never has and it never will."

Still, he has a chance now to be the first women's coach to repeat as a gold medalist.

"We have traditionally picked a coach for four years and rotated that every four years and had

great success with that," women's national team director Carol Callan said during the summer. "We've had several who could repeat, but we never had gotten through to that discussion."

That group includes Naismith Memorial Hall of Famers Pat Summitt, Tara VanDerveer, Kay Yow and Van Chancellor.

Auriemma had felt his Olympic duties took too much time from his coaching at Connecticut. □

Lynx beat Sparks in matchup of West's top 2 teams

JESS MYERS

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) -- Minnesota's home dominance of the Los Angeles Sparks continued Wednesday night in a likely playoff preview.

Siemone Augustus scored 23 points to lead the Lynx to a physical 83-74 win over the Sparks in a matchup of the top two teams in the Western Conference.

Maya Moore added 20 points for the Lynx, who pulled away in the second half to increase their lead over the Sparks in the standings to 2 1/2 games. It was the fifth consecutive win for Minnesota, which beat the Sparks in the conference finals last season.

As Minnesota tunes up for what they hope will be a third straight trip to the WNBA Finals, teammates say Augustus is stepping up her offensive game at the right time.

"We expect that out of her. She's a great player

and an Olympian," said Janel McCarville, who had 12 points. "When she's in that zone it's hard for defenses to stop here. They kind of threw everything at her."

Candace Parker scored a game-high 25 points and Kristi Toliver had 14 as Los Angeles lost its second straight.

Trailing by as many as 16 in the second half, the Sparks put together a 13-3 run to pull to 74-68 with a minute remaining. But Augustus hit a long-range jumper and Moore - the conference's player of the month for August - drained four free throws to end the rally.

The teams have one meeting remaining next Thursday in Los Angeles. The home team has won 13 of the last 14 regular season meetings in the series.

Parker said falling behind early was all too familiar for the Sparks.

"We've had that throughout the season. We've

had collapses in quarters," Parker said. "Every time we're trying to fight back in the fourth because we gave it away in the first or second quarter."

Emotions boiled late in the game when a quick shoving match led to technical fouls for McCarville and Nneka Ogumike of the Sparks.

"It's my understanding that WWE was in town last night and (Janel) was in attendance," Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve joked. "She maybe fed off that a little bit. I'm not exactly sure what happened, but that's what her teammates suggested."

McCarville hit a 3-pointer at the halftime buzzer to give the Lynx a 45-33 lead after a first half that featured several momentum swings.

The Lynx hit their first four shots for an 8-0 lead then went 3-for-13 the rest of the first quarter. The Sparks stormed back to tie it at 18



Minnesota Lynx forward Janel McCarville (4) celebrates after hitting a three-point basket against the Los Angeles Sparks in the final second of the second quarter of a WNBA basketball game on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

after 10 minutes. Marissa Coleman hit a 3 early in the second quarter to give Los Angeles a 23-20 lead before Minnesota finished the first half on a 25-10 run.

"Turnovers dug us a hole in that second quarter, and it really got them energized, got the crowd into it," Sparks coach Carol Ross said. "Those are things

you don't want to happen. They're good enough without all that."

Parker led the Sparks in the first half with 14 points, while Augustus had 10.

Lindsey Whalen was the only Minnesota starter who didn't reach double digits, finishing with nine points, but she had a career-best 14 assists. □

U.S. Open

Continued from page 18

Ninth-seeded Wawrinka made his first Grand Slam semifinal, earning a spot in the final four for Switzerland that for so long felt like Roger Federer's birthright.

"It feels amazing for sure, especially here," Wawrinka said. "Especially after that match. He's the defending champion. He's a tough opponent."

Wawrinka will play the winner of Thursday's late quarterfinal between No. 1 Novak Djokovic and No. 21 Mikhail Youzhny.

After years of close calls and deep trips into majors, the third-seeded Murray finally won his first Grand Slam title at Flushing Meadows last year, then his second at Wimbledon this July. But the straight-set loss to Wawrinka ended a stay in New York during which he never got completely comfortable — not when he had to wait until the first Wednesday to begin the defense of the title, not when he struggled in a four-set victory over Denis

Istomen in the fourth round and certainly not on Thursday.

This was Murray's earliest exit from the U.S. Open since 2010, when Wawrinka also did the honors — that year in the third round. Murray conceded it's been a long road since he broke into the top, first at the Olympics on home turf last year, then with the two major titles.

"When you work hard at something for a lot of years, it's going to take time to fire yourself up and get to training 110 percent," Murray said about his preparation for the year's final Grand Slam. "That's something kind of natural after what happened at Wimbledon."

An amazing letdown, especially considering the numbers he has been putting up of late.

—He had appeared in the finals of the previous four major tournaments he entered (he missed this year's French Open because of a back injury).

—He had won 30 of his last 32 Grand Slam matches.



Stanislas Wawrinka, of Switzerland, returns a shot to Andy Murray, of Great Britain, during the quarterfinals of the 2013 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

—He had been 7-0 on hard courts in major quarterfinals.

—This marked his first straight-set loss in a major

since the semifinals of the 2011 French Open.

"If I'm meant to win every Grand Slam I play or be in the final, it's just very, very

difficult just now," Murray said.

"With the guys around us, it's very challenging." Wawrinka is certainly one of those guys now.

He played near-flawless tennis, especially considering the windy conditions that had the ball warbling all over the place in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

He didn't face a break point over his 14 service games.

Wawrinka had 45 winners to 15 for Murray.

Wawrinka also charged the net, not allowing Murray to get comfortable while trying to figure out the windy conditions on the baseline.

Wawrinka won the point on 31 of 42 trips to the net, including 10 for 10 in the third set.

"I thought there was a fair few long points, but I didn't get into enough return games, which is disappointing for me," Murray said. "That's normally something I do pretty well. I always give myself opportunities to break serve, and I didn't today. □

Columbus, Seattle boost playoff hopes with wins

The Associated Press
COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Columbus won in its first match since firing its coach, defeating Houston on Wednesday to boost its MLS playoff chances, while Seattle shored up its position inside the top three in the Western Conference. Columbus' Justin Meram and Ryan Finley each had a goal and an assist as the Crew moved within five

points of Houston and the final playoff-yielding position in the East. Meram set up Finley's goal in the 47th minute then added his first of the season in the 74th. Finley also had a penalty shot blocked in the 50th. Crew interim coach Brian Bliss won his first game after Robert Warzycha was fired Monday in his fifth season. SEATTLE 1, Chivas USA 0

Seattle won 1-0 at home over Chivas to move equal second on points with Los Angeles in the West, five points behind overall leader Real Salt Lake. Lamar Neagle scored off of a free kick by Marc Burch in the 24th minute and the Sounders hung on to record their sixth win in seven games. Chivas has three draws and nine defeats in its past dozen away games. □



Seattle Sounders' Lamar Neagle, left, celebrates with teammate DeAndre Yedlin, center, after scoring a goal with an assist from Sounders' Marc Burch, right, against Chivas USA in the first half of an MLS soccer match on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013, in Seattle. Associated Press

All Capsules

Continued from page 18

Jacoby Ellsbury, Stephen Drew, Mike Napoli and Ryan Lavanway also homered for the Red Sox. Ryan Dempster (8-9) allowed four runs on six hits and two walks in six innings. Rick Porcello (11-8) gave up nine runs — eight of them earned — on seven hits and four walks in five-plus innings.

RAYS 3, ANGELS 1
ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Rookie Wil Myers hit two homers off Jered Weaver, and Tampa Bay kept pace in the AL wild-card race. Jeremy Hellickson (11-8) pitched scoreless ball into the sixth inning of his first victory in nearly six weeks for the Rays, who won their second straight after a five-game skid.

Chris Iannetta hit a pinch-hit homer in the seventh for Los Angeles, which has lost 11 of 13 at home.

Weaver (9-8) yielded six hits over seven innings, but gave up two no-doubt shots to Myers, who hadn't homered since Aug. 14.

Myers had never faced Weaver, but he homered on the first pitch he saw from the Angels' longtime ace in the second inning. He homered again in the seventh on Weaver's first pitch after a mound visit, driving a two-run shot into the Rays' bullpen behind left field.

Fernando Rodney earned his 32nd save in the ninth while making his first appearance in a week for



Cleveland Indians' Matt Carson ducks from a pitch by Baltimore Orioles reliever Jim Johnson in the eighth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013, in Cleveland. Associated Press

Tampa Bay, which has won two straight after a 1-8 skid. Hellickson yielded four hits and two walks in his first start since spending a week in the minors to rediscover his form.

INDIANS 6, ORIOLES 4
CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Indians, boosted by a good-luck chicken and a pair of RBIs from both Yan Gomes and Ryan Raburn, beat the Baltimore Orioles.

Cleveland pitcher Justin Masterson carried a live chicken on to the field for batting practice. The bird, supplied by a clubhouse workers from an area farm, was a gift to reliever Cody Allen.

The chicken spent most of batting practice standing with Cleveland's pitchers in front of the warning track in center field. Allen's teammates gave him the nickname "Chicken Al" in spring training and the chicken has been named

"Cody." The Indians moved a half-game past Baltimore in the chase for a wild-card spot. Relievers Bryan Shaw (3-3), Allen, Joe Smith and Chris Perez, who recorded his 22nd save, combined to allow one hit in 4 1-3 innings. Kevin Gausman (2-4) took the loss.

ATHLETICS 11, RANGERS 4
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Jarrod Parker got plenty of home-run help and pitched his way into Oakland's record book, and the surging Athletics pulled into a tie atop the AL West with Texas by overpowering the Rangers.

Parker (11-6) allowed two runs in six innings to extend his unbeaten streak to 18 straight starts, eclipsing Catfish Hunter's Oakland mark set from June 2-Sept. 3, 1973. Parker also has won his last nine decisions, the most by an A's pitcher since Dan Haren won 10 in a row in 2007. □

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ETHAN HAWKE | SELENA GOMEZ
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LEONARD NIMOY | ABIGAIL BRESLIN
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THE CONJURING
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PLANES
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Sandoval hits 3HRs as Giants rip Padres

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Pablo Sandoval hit three homers and drove in six runs Wednesday, leading a rare power show by the San Francisco Giants in a 13-5 win over the San Diego Padres. NL Capsules Sandoval started the day with 10 home runs this season. He then hit a two-run shot in the fifth inning, a leadoff drive in the eighth and a three-run homer in the ninth.

Sandoval's only previous three-homer game came in the opener of last year's World Series. He wound up as the MVP of the Series. The star third baseman also added a single against the Padres.

San Francisco hit six home runs overall. The Giants began the game tied with Miami for the fewest homers in the majors with 80.

CARDINALS 5, REDS 4, 16 innings

CINCINNATI (AP) — Matt Adams' second homer sent St. Louis to a victory over the Reds in 16 innings, protecting the Cardinals' hold on second place in the NL Central.

Adams broke an 0-for-17 slump by connecting in the 14th. After St. Louis let that lead get away, he homered again off Logan Ondrusek (3-1), ending the Reds' longest game of the season.

The Cardinals had dropped the first two games in the series, letting the Reds get within a game and a half for second place. They finish their season series on Thursday. St. Louis leads it 11-8.

Carlos Martinez (2-1) escaped a threat in the 15th, when Shin-Soo Choo reached third with two outs but was caught in a rundown.

BREWERS 9, PIRATES 3



San Francisco Giants' Pablo Sandoval sticks out his tongue as he watches his second home run of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres during the eighth inning on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013, in San Diego.

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Pirates ace Francisco Liriano lasted only three innings and the Milwaukee Brewers pounded out a victory to delay Pittsburgh from clinching its first winning season since 1992.

Liriano (15-7), who had allowed five earned runs in his previous four starts, was rocked for seven runs on seven hits, with two walks and two costly wild pitches. The Pirates, aiming for their 82nd victory, twice left the bases loaded and stranded 12 runners.

The Brewers tagged Liriano for five runs on five hits in the third inning to open a 7-2 lead.

Peralta (9-14) allowed three runs on nine hits in six innings, striking out six and walking one.

Pirates All-Star Jason Grilli, who had been sidelined with a right forearm strain, pitched the eighth for his first appearance since July

22.

ROCKIES 7, DODGERS 5

DENVER (AP) — Jorge De La Rosa pitched six strong innings to win his sixth consecutive decision, Todd Helton homered and the Rockies snapped the Dodgers' six-game winning streak with a victory.

De La Rosa (16-6) allowed two runs and six hits in matching his career high for wins in a season and tying Washington's Jordan Zimmermann for most wins in the National League. De La Rosa went 16-9 in 2009 for the Rockies.

Colorado built an early lead off Edinson Volquez, who was making his first start for Los Angeles after being signed last week by the Dodgers following his release by San Diego.

Volquez (9-11) allowed four runs and six hits in four innings in falling to 0-5 in six starts against Colorado this season.

METS 5, BRAVES 2

ATLANTA (AP) — Lucas Duda had three hits, including a home run, and Andrew Brown added a towering two-run shot to lead Dillon Gee and the Mets to a win over the Braves.

Gee (11-9) cruised after he was given a 5-0 lead in the third. The right-hander allowed one run on four hits in seven innings.

Freddie Freeman homered off Mets reliever Vic Black with two outs in the eighth. The Mets had 12 hits, including 11 in only 4 1-3 innings against Kameron Loe (0-2), who made his first start in the majors since 2007. He filled in for Julio Teheran, who was given a rest — a possible sign of things to come this month as the Braves move closer to the postseason.

CUBS 9, MARLINS 7

CHICAGO (AP) — Donnie Murphy homered to cap a

four-run rally in the seventh inning and the Cubs connected four times to beat the Marlins.

Murphy's two-run shot put the Cubs ahead 8-7. Starlin Castro, Dioner Navarro and Ryan Sweeney each added solo home runs for Chicago.

The Cubs avoided a sweep and prevented the Marlins from winning four straight for the first time this season. Adeiny Hechavarria hit a grand slam for Miami and Logan Morrison had a two-run homer.

NATIONALS 3, PHILLIES 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jordan Zimmermann became the National League's first 16-game winner, pitching seven solid innings to lead the Nationals past the Phillies. Zimmermann (16-8) struck out five, walked one and allowed two runs in winning his fourth straight start. Ryan Zimmerman's solo shot off Phillies reliever Zach Miner in the seventh inning tied the game at 2. Jake Diekman (1-4) walked the leadoff batter in the eighth, then allowed pinch-runner Jeff Kobernus to score on a fielder's choice for the winning run. The Nationals sat outfielder Bryce Harper to rest his ailing hip.

INTERLEAGUE

DIAMONDBACKS 4, BLUE JAYS 3

PHOENIX (AP) — Willie Bloomquist lined his third hit for a run-scoring single in the 10th inning and the Arizona Diamondbacks avoided a three-game sweep with a win over the Blue Jays.

Eric Chavez got the final rally started by blooming a single off Luis Perez (0-1) and pinch-runner Adam Eaton moved to third on A.J. Pollock's single off Jeremy Jeffress. □



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Yahoo unveils new logo in turnaround makeover

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

**AP Technology Writer
 SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Yahoo has refreshed its logo for the first time since shortly after the Internet company's founding 18 years ago. The new look unveiled late Wednesday is part of a makeover that Yahoo Inc. has been undergoing since the Sunnyvale, California, company hired Google executive Marissa Mayer to become Yahoo's CEO 14 months ago. Mayer has already spruced up Yahoo's front page, email and Flickr photo-sharing service,

as well as engineered a series of acquisitions aimed at attracting more traffic on mobile devices. The shopping spree has been highlighted by Yahoo's \$1.1 billion purchase of Tumblr, an Internet blogging service where the company rolled out its new logo. The redesigned logo retains some of the elements of the old one, including the company's official color, purple. Yahoo's familiar exclamation point, meant to punctuate a yodeling sound that has long been the company's calling card, is still there, too, but with a

twist. When visitors come to Yahoo's front page or an app, the exclamation point dances across some of the lettering before settling at the end of the company's name at a slight tilt of nine degrees. "We knew we wanted a logo that reflected Yahoo — whimsical, yet sophisticated," Mayer wrote on her Tumblr account. She hailed the redesigned looks as "modern and fresh, with a nod to our history. Having a human touch, personal. Proud." Mayer, 38, said she spent most of one weekend this summer figuring out what

Introducing Our New Logo!

By Kathy Savitt, Chief Marketing Officer

We're excited to share the new Yahoo logo with you. It will begin appearing across Yahoo properties globally tonight.



This screen grab made from Yahoo Inc.'s Tumblr page shows the company's new logo in a post published on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013.

Associated Press

U.S. study finds online privacy concerns on the rise

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are sharing more personal information online than ever, but they also want to better control who can see it, according to a study released Thursday by the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project. The study says privacy concerns are growing, with 50 percent of Internet users saying they are worried about the information available about them online, up from 33 percent in 2009.

Meanwhile, 86 percent of people surveyed have tried at least one technique to hide their activity online or avoid being tracked, such as clearing cookies or their browser history or using encryption. People cite various reasons. About one-third said they had tried to conceal their activity from hackers or criminals, while 28 percent have tried to block advertisers. Others said



Lee Rainie, Director of the Pew Research Center, poses for a photograph, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013, in Washington.

Associated Press

they wanted to keep information private from family members or spouses, employers or the government. "People choose different strategies for different activities, for different content, to mask themselves from different people, at different times in their lives," said Mary Madden, a senior researcher at Pew.

"What they clearly want is the power to decide who knows what about them." The report comes after a national debate erupted again over privacy and national security when a former National Security Agency contractor, Edward Snowden, leaked details of secret government surveillance programs. □

the new logo should look like with four other Yahoo colleagues: Bob Stohrer, Marc DeBartolomeis, Russ Khaydarov, and an intern, Max Ma. In an effort to drum up more interest in the changeover, Yahoo spent the past 30 days showing some of the proposed logos that Mayer and her helpers cast aside. The revision is the first time that Yahoo has made a significant change to its logo since a few tweaks shortly after co-founders Jerry Yang and David Filo incorporated the company in 1995. Since Yahoo's logo is so recognizable, it's a good thing they kept the changes relatively sedate, says branding expert Laura Ries, of the Atlanta firm Ries & Ries.

"One of the worst things in the world you can do is have a log around for two decades and then do something totally different. It's quite unsettling for consumers," she said. Keeping the purple and the exclamation point was a good idea, she said. Mayer's overhaul of Yahoo has attracted a lot of at-

tention, but so far it hasn't provided a significant lift to the company's revenue. Yahoo depends on Internet advertising to make most of its money, an area where the company's growth has been anemic while more marketing dollars flow to rivals such as Google Inc. and Facebook Inc.

A new logo is an important part of updating Yahoo, Ries said, but at the end of the day the company has to do a better job of "verbalizing what exactly Yahoo is." "There's nothing wrong with improving something, putting lipstick on something, but at the end of the day is it a pig or not? That is the question," Ries said. Yahoo's stock has climbed by nearly 80 percent, but most of that gain has been driven by the company's 24 percent stake in China's Alibaba Holdings Group. Investors prize Alibaba because it has emerged as one of the fastest growing companies on the Internet. Yahoo's stock gained 13 cents, or 0.5 percent, to \$28.20 in mid-afternoon trading Thursday. □

Stocks edge higher after encouraging jobs reports

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks edged higher Thursday after a pair of reports provided more evidence that the U.S. is maintaining a slow but steady economic recovery.

The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits dropped last week and is near the lowest level since June 2008, the Labor Department said Thursday. Weekly applications are just 1,000 above a five-year low reached last month.

Also, a survey from the payroll company ADP showed that American businesses added 176,000 jobs in August, fewer than in June and July but roughly in line with the monthly average for the year.

The encouraging reports came one day before the government releases its closely watched employment survey for August. Many investors believe that a strong report will ensure that Federal Reserve policymakers will decide to reduce, or "taper," economic stimulus at their meeting later this month.

The U.S. central bank is buying \$85 billion in bonds a month to keep long-term interest rates low and to stimulate the economy. Fed stimulus has helped drive a bull market in stocks that has lasted more than four years.

"The data is shaping up that the Fed probably lays out a tapering schedule in September," said Phil Orlando, chief equity market strategist at Federated Investors.

While stock markets may be volatile in the coming weeks, investors will ultimately regard the cut in stimulus as a positive sign because it means that the economy is strengthening, Orlando said. "It should leave stocks in great shape."

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 6.61 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 14,937.48. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose two points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,655.08.

The Nasdaq composite

gained 9.74 points, or 0.3 percent, to 3,658.78.

Some retail stocks were among the biggest gainers. Costco rose \$3.12, or 2.8 percent, to \$114.62 after the discount store chain said revenue at stores open at least a year rose 4 percent in August, slightly faster than Wall Street's expectations. Walgreen's also gained after reporting a strong rise in sales last month. Walgreen's rose 70 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$50.19 after reporting a 4.8 percent increase in sales.

In government bond trading, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note climbed after the jobs reports. It also edged higher after a private survey showed that the U.S. service sector expanded at the fastest pace in nearly 8 years last month as sales and orders grew and employers ramped up hiring.

The yield on the 10-year note rose to 2.99 percent from 2.90 percent late Wednesday.

The yield has climbed more than 1.3 percentage points in four months and is at its highest since July 2011 as bond traders

anticipate that the Federal Reserve will cut back on its stimulus.

Rising yields on Treasury notes matter for the economy because they are used to set mortgage rates and other key interest rates. Average fixed rates on U.S. long-term mortgage rates rose to 4.57 percent this week, close to their highest of the year.

Stocks slumped in August, in part due to concern that the Fed would slow stimulus and the higher interest rates would harm the economy. The S&P 500 index fell 3.1 percent, its biggest monthly decline since May 2012.

It appears, however, that investors are getting more comfortable with higher borrowing costs.

"We don't anticipate that a gradual rise in rates will choke off the economy," said Dave Roda, regional chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank. "We are still looking at very low rates historically."

In commodities trading, the price of oil rose \$1.14, or 1.1 percent, to \$108.37 a barrel. Gold fell \$17, or 1.2 percent, to \$1,373 an ounce.



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York. Stocks edged higher Thursday after a pair of reports provided more evidence that the U.S. is maintaining a slow but steady economic recovery.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

Brighter US economy makes Fed tapering more likely

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy is showing strength as summer nears a close — a trend that's raising the likelihood that the

last month. The August gain is expected to nearly match the year's monthly average of 192,000 jobs.

On Thursday, reports showed that services companies are stepping up hir-

This year's solid job growth, along with a sharp drop in layoffs, has helped lower the unemployment rate to 7.4 percent from 7.9 percent in January. It also means more Americans are earning paychecks and will likely boost consumer spending in coming months. Analysts predict that employers added 177,000 jobs in August.

"People are finding work, and they have more money to spend," said Drew Matus, an economist at UBS. The improved jobs picture is a key reason most economists expect the Fed to announce later this month that it will scale back its bond buying. The Fed's \$85 billion a month in Treasury and mortgage bond purchases have helped keep home-loan and other borrowing rates ultra-low to encourage consumers and

businesses to borrow and spend more.

Chairman Ben Bernanke has said the Fed could begin slowing its bond purchases by year's end if the economy continued to strengthen and end the purchases by mid-2014. At its policy meeting Sept. 17-18, the Fed will debate whether to taper its monthly purchases and, if so, by how much.

Key data released in the past week have bolstered the position of those Fed officials who argue that the economy is healthy enough to withstand tapering: Still, more than four years after the recession officially ended, the economy has a long way to go return to full health. The unemployment rate is well above the 5 percent to 6 percent range associated with a normal economy. □



Ben Bernanke, the Federal Reserve chairman, outside his offices in Washington.

(Mary F. Calvert/The New York Times)

Federal Reserve will slow its bond buying later this month.

The steady improvement is also lifting hopes for Friday's report on job growth

ing and that a dwindling number of people are losing jobs. Those figures follow reports of stronger auto sales and faster expansion by U.S. factories.

Oil rises on US supply, solid data

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Prices for crude oil and natural gas moved in opposite directions Thursday after the U.S. government issued weekly supply reports for both fuels.

Benchmark oil for October delivery gained 93 cents, or 1.1 percent, to close at \$108.37 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. But natural gas futures fell 10.5 cents, or 2.9 percent, to \$3.575 per 1,000 cubic feet. As the market waited to see if Congress will approve a U.S. military strike against Syria, the main focus was on market fundamentals and the release of economic data.

Oil was showing a slight gain in the morning but rose further after the government said that supplies of oil and gasoline each fell by 1.8 million barrels in the week ended Aug. 30. The drop in gasoline supplies was greater than expected, and refinery usage increased, both signs perhaps of solid demand for fuel at the end of the summer driving season.

On the economic front, the Labor Department released data Thursday showing applications for U.S. unemployment benefits fell to 323,000 last week, near their lowest level in 5 years and in line with trends indicating fewer layoffs and steady net job gains. Elsewhere in the oil market, Brent, the benchmark for international crudes, was up 18 cents to \$115.09 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

Brent has risen sharply recently due to fears of a U.S. intervention in Syria, even if the scale of the attack is now expected to be low. President Barack Obama continued to press skeptical U.S. lawmakers to give him the authority to use military force, even as he attended an economic summit in St. Petersburg, Russia. Natural gas dropped after the Energy Department said supplies rose by 58 billion cubic feet to 3.188 trillion cubic feet. □

US service firms expand at fastest pace in 8 years

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Companies in the U.S. service sector expanded at their fastest pace in nearly 8 years last month as sales and orders grew and employers ramped up hiring. The Institute for Supply Management said Thursday that its service-sector index rose to 58.6 in August

from 56 in July. It's the highest point since December 2005. Any reading above 50 indicates expansion.

A measure of hiring rose to 57, the most in six months. That's an encouraging sign for the job market because the service sector employs 90 percent of the U.S. workforce, including retail, construction, health care and financial services.

On Friday, the Labor Department will issue the August jobs report. Consumers appear to be spending more at auto dealerships, retailers, hotels and restaurants. The housing recovery is also spurring growth in real estate. The report "implies that the economic recovery is gathering a real head of steam," said Paul Dales, an economist

at Capital Economics. The upbeat figures come after another report Thursday showed that weekly applications for unemployment benefits fell to nearly their lowest level in five years. Also, a private survey found that U.S. businesses added 176,000 jobs last month, below the previous month but roughly in line with the average gain this year. □

US retailers report modest sales gains for August

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans' cautious spending on clothing extended into August, capping a weak back-to-school selling season for retailers. Several retailers including clothiers Cato Corp. and L Brands Inc. on Thursday posted disappointing revenue during the month, which falls in the middle of the second biggest shopping period of the year.

The results raise questions about whether Americans will spend during the winter holidays in November and December, a time retailers can make up to 40 percent of their revenue for the year. While the back-to-school season, which runs from mid-July through mid-September, isn't an absolute predictor of how Americans will spend during the winter holidays, it

does offer insight into consumers' mindset.

"Overall, the month was mediocre for sales," said Michael P. Niemira, chief economist at the Interna-

at stores opened at least a year — a measure of a retailer's health— rose 3.7 percent in August, according to a preliminary tally of 8 retailers by the Inter-



Clothing is modeled on mannequins in a retail store's window display in Baltimore. Americans' cautious spending on clothing extended into August, capping a weak back-to-school selling season for retailers.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

tional Council of Shopping Centers. "The back-to-school season started late and it never had momentum." Overall, revenue

national Council of Shopping Centers. That's up slightly from July's 3.5 percent gain, but below the 6 percent gain in August last

year. Only a sliver of retail chains report monthly sales figures, and the list doesn't include Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Macy's Inc. and many other large chains. In total, the retailers that report monthly data represent about 6 percent of the \$2.4 trillion in U.S. retail industry sales. But Thursday's tally adds to evidence that while jobs are easier to get and the turnaround in the housing market is gaining momentum, the improvements have not been enough to sustain higher levels of spending for most Americans. Most still are juggling tepid wage gains with higher costs of living.

As a result, Americans in recent months have been shifting their spending to big ticket items like cars and home improvement, which has left little room for clothing and impulse purchases. □

US factory orders drop sharply at 2.4% in July

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories fell in July by the sharpest amount in four months, held back by weaker demand for commercial aircraft and heavy machinery. A key category that reflects business investment plans also fell.

Factory orders dropped 2.4 percent in July compared with June, when orders rose 1.6 percent, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

Orders for core capital goods, a category viewed as a proxy for business investment spending, fell 4 percent in July.

Core capital goods are

considered a good measure of businesses' confidence in the economy. They include items that point to expansion — such as machinery, computers and heavy trucks — while excluding volatile orders for aircraft and defense. The July setback was expected to be temporary. Orders for durable goods, items expected to last at least three years, declined 7.4 percent, a slightly bigger drop than the 7.3 percent fall estimated in a preliminary report last week. It was the biggest decline since a 12.9 percent fall in August 2012. Orders for nondurable goods, items such as chemicals, food and paper, rose 2.4

percent in July after a 0.5 percent decline in June.

Excluding the volatile transportation category, factory goods orders were up 1.2 percent.

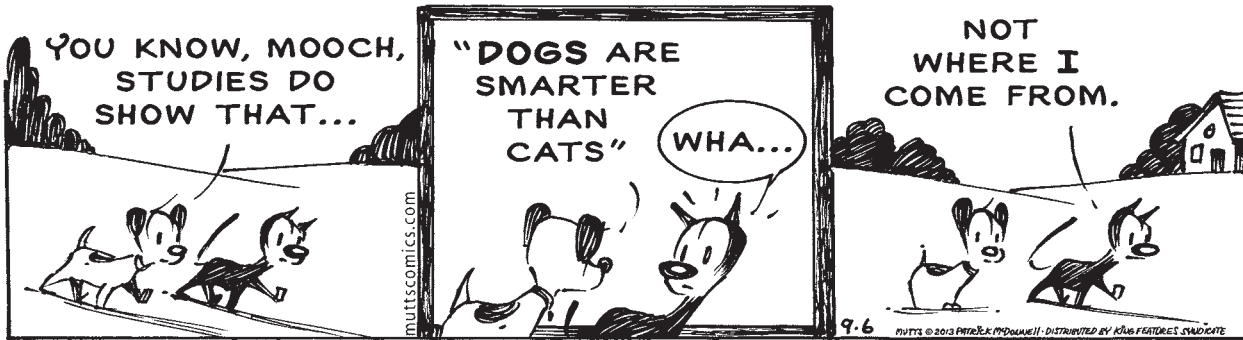
The big drop in core capital goods orders suggests the third quarter is off to a weaker start than some had hoped.

While economists cautioned that it's just one month of data, a few lowered their growth estimates for the July-September quarter after seeing the durable goods report. Some believe that growth may only come in around 1.9 percent for the current quarter, a drop from previous estimates of 2.5 percent growth.

Overall manufacturing has slumped this year, hurt by weakness overseas that has dragged on U.S. exports. But there have been signs that factory activity could pick up in the second half of the year.

But the Institute for Supply Management reported Tuesday that its closely watched gauge of manufacturing activity rose in August to a reading of 55.7, up from 55.4 in July. That was the highest level since June 2011 and offered encouragement that manufacturing may be starting to pull out of its slowdown. The economy expanded at an annualized rate of 2.5 percent in the April-June quarter. □

Mutts



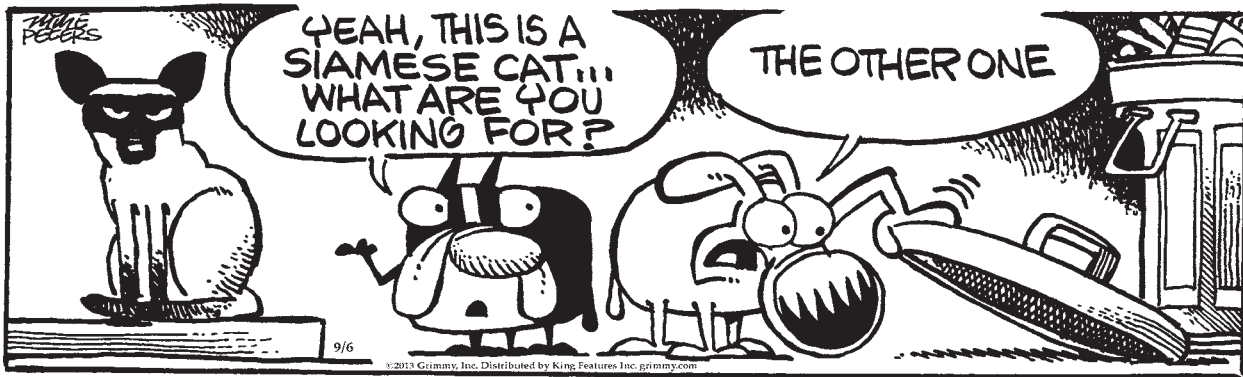
6 Chix



Blondie



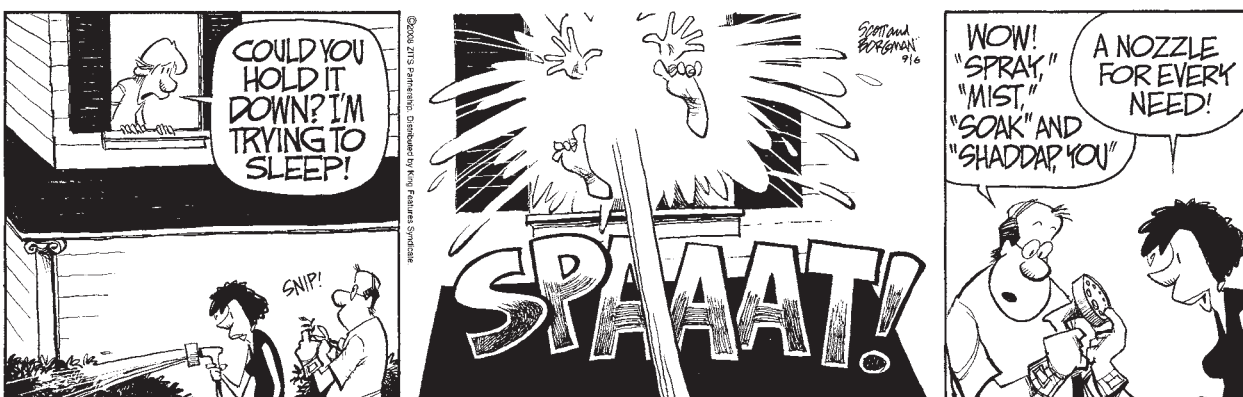
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3	1		2		9		8
		5			3		
	4		6		8		9
	1					8	
	5		4		3		2
		2			5		
7	8		9		1		6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

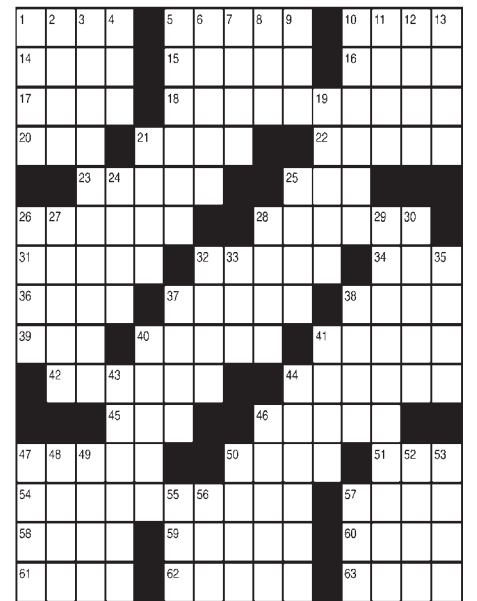
2	8	4	1	9	7	5	3	6
9	7	3	6	8	5	2	4	1
6	1	5	4	3	2	9	7	8
8	4	7	9	1	6	3	2	5
1	6	2	5	7	3	8	9	4
5	3	9	2	4	8	1	6	7
4	5	8	3	6	9	7	1	2
7	9	6	8	2	1	4	5	3
3	2	1	7	5	4	6	8	9

ACROSS

- Song for one
- Large parrot
- Perched upon
- Shakespeare's home Stratford-upon-
- Make laugh
- Well-; steak orderer's option
- Man, for short
- Empty talk
- "You _ My Sunshine"
- Back talk
- Refueling ship
- City in England
- Apple product
- Today
- Cash in
- Breathing organs
- Assumed name
- Wet sticky stuff
- Follow orders
- Potato salad ingredient
- James _; 007
- Golfer Ernie _
- Sugary
- Walked the floor
- Shun
- Walks leisurely
- "Morning _ Broken"; Cat Stevens song
- Fine _; fabric for a tablecloth
- _ for; symbolized
- Late actor Foxx
- Definite article
- Unable to get out and about
- Say the rosary, for example
- Shaping tool
- New Delhi, _
- Bee colony
- Source of light in the night sky
- Very small
- Frosted

DOWN

- Long story
- Above



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/6/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

YEAR	STABS	SNUB
AXLE	COVET	POSE
KIDS	OMEGA	OVEN
STATURE	GYMNAST	
AGE	VASES	
EARTH	FIR	DOCKS
GLEE	LAS	PARIAH
YON	CODICIL	DRY
PHASES	TOE	PEAL
TALES	MOB	PARTY
	VAPOR	MAC
EMPEROR	REWINDS	
NEAR	KABUL	FOOL
DALE	ELATE	ISLE
SLED	SENSE	CHEW

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9/6/13

- First, second, third or home
- Protect from the sun
- Small lake
- few; elite
- Noon
- Bolshevik leader Vladimir
- Pretense; farce
- Commotion
- Greek liqueur
- Impolite
- Own; possess
- Watched
- Nipped
- 1/4 and 3/4
- Beta Kappa

NY tribe launching radio ad against Redskins



In this Aug. 4, 2009, file photo, Washington Redskins helmets are displayed on the field during NFL football training camp at Redskins Park in Ashburn, Va. Associated Press

MICHAEL HILL

Associated Press

ALBANY, New York (AP) —

A tribe in upstate New York said Thursday it will launch a radio ad campaign pressing for the Washington Redskins to get rid of a nickname that is often criticized as offensive.

The Oneida Indian Nation said the first ad will run on radio stations in Washington before the American football team hosts the Philadelphia Eagles in its season opener Monday night. In the ad, Oneida Nation Representative Ray Halbritter says NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell should "stand up to bigotry" by denouncing "the racial slur" in the team's name.

"We do not deserve to be called redskins," the Oneida leader says in the ad. "We deserve to be treated as what we are — Americans."

The radio ad said Goodell had rightly been critical this summer after an Eagles wide receiver was caught on video making a racial slur against African-Ameri-

cans.

The ads launch as the Washington Redskins this year face a fresh barrage of criticism over their nickname, with local leaders and pundits calling for a name change. In May, 10 members of Congress sent letters to Redskins owner Dan Snyder and Goodell urging the team to change the name.

Snyder has vowed to never change the name.

League spokesman Brian McCarthy, in an email to The Associated Press, said they "respect that reasonable people may have differing views."

"The name from its origin has always intended to be positive and has always been used by the team in a highly respectful manner," McCarthy wrote. There was no immediate response from the Redskins.

The Oneidas have been vocal opponents of the Redskins nickname — be it for NFL or high school teams. The tribe, which runs a casino and resort in central New York, this year

gave \$10,000 toward new jerseys to an area high school that changed its nickname from the Redskins to the Hawkeyes.

The Oneida said the first ad will run Sunday and Monday on several stations in

Washington. Subsequent ads will run in Washington during home games and in the cities hosting the team when it is away. □



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Oceanside \$10k Oceanview \$9500
Oceanfront \$15,000
3 BEDRM OV \$15,000

Platinum Season

Oceanview \$18k Oceanside \$19k
Oceanfront \$29k 3 BEDRM \$29k
Plat Plus Holiday 51 OV -\$42k
Plat Plus NY 52 OV- \$49k

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

Platinum 2B Oceanview \$19k
Oceanfront PLAT \$29k
Platinum 1B OV \$12,500
Gold season 2B OV \$10,000
Oceanfront 2B \$17,000
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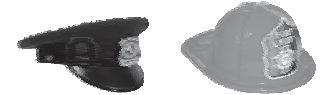
DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Dr. van Trigt

EMERGENCIA

911



POLIS	100
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Sep. 9

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Study links warming to some 2012 wild weather

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A study of a dozen of 2012's wildest weather events found that man-made global warming increased the likelihood of about half of them, including Superstorm Sandy's devastating surge and shrinking Arctic sea ice.

The other half — including a record wet British summer and the U.S. drought last year — simply reflected the random freakiness of weather, researchers with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the British meteorological office concluded in a report issued Thursday.

The scientists conducted thousands of runs of different computer simulations



In this July 30, 2013 file photo, a child enjoys a fountain in Bucharest, Romania, shortly before a thunderstorm. Southern Romania was affected by a heat wave with temperatures of up to 40 Centigrade, 104 Fahrenheit, in some areas.

Associated Press

dustrial times because of greenhouse gases, Stanford University climate scientist Noah Diffenbaugh found in his analysis.

The kind of surge-related flooding that Superstorm Sandy brought to parts of New York City is about 50 percent more likely than it was in 1950, said study co-author William Sweet, a NOAA oceanographer.

Stott said one of the hardest connections to make is for rainfall. The researchers were able to connect three of the eight instances of too much or too little rain to climate change; the five other instances were attributed to natural variability.

The different authors of the 21 chapters used differing techniques to look at climate change connections, and in some instances came to conflicting and



In this Aug. 27, 2103 file photo, an ear of corn is blackened in the sun during a heat wave in Farmingdale, Ill.

Associated Press

that looked at various factors, such as moisture in the air, atmospheric flow, and sea temperature and level. The approach represents an evolution in the field. Scientists used to say that individual weather events — a specific hurricane or flood, for example — cannot be attributed to climate change. But recently, researchers have used computer simulations to look at extreme events in a more nuanced way and measure the influence of climate change on their likelihood and magnitude. This is the second year that NOAA and the British meteorology office have teamed up to look at the greenhouse gas connection to the previous year's

unusual events.

"We've got some new evidence that human influence has changed the risk and has changed it enough that we can detect it," study lead author Peter Stott, head of climate monitoring and attribution for the British meteorological office, said at a news conference.

The researchers said climate change had made these 2012 events more likely: U.S. heat waves, Superstorm Sandy flooding, the changing Arctic sea ice, drought in Europe's Iberian peninsula, and extreme rainfall in Australia and New Zealand.

The 78 international researchers, however, found no global warming connection for the U.S.



In an Oct. 31, 2012, file aerial photo, the destroyed and damaged homes are left in the wake of Superstorm Sandy in Ortley Beach, N.J.

Associated Press

drought, Europe's summer extremes, a cold spell in the Netherlands, drought in eastern Kenya and Somalia, floods in northern China and heavy rain in southwestern Japan. That does not mean that there weren't climate change factors involved, just that researchers couldn't find or prove them, said the authors of the 84-page study, published in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society.

All 12 events — chosen in part because of their lo-

cation and the effect they had on society — would have happened anyway, but their magnitude and likelihood were boosted in some cases by global warming, the researchers said.

The two events where scientists found the biggest climate change connection both hit the United States.

The likelihood of the record July U.S. heat wave that hit the Northeast and north-central region is four times greater now than in prein-

confusing conclusions.

Georgia Institute of Technology professor Judith Curry, who often disagrees with mainstream scientists, said connecting shrinking sea ice to human activity was obvious, but as for Sandy and the rest: "I'm not buying it at all."

Thomas Karl, director of NOAA's National Climatic Data Center, said the study provides "compelling evidence that human-caused change was a factor contributing to the extreme events." □

Scarlett Johansson engaged to Frenchman

PARIS (AP) — Apparently love didn't get lost in translation for Scarlett Johansson, who is engaged to a Frenchman and onetime journalist.

Johansson's rep, Marcel Pariseau, confirmed her engagement to Romain Dauriac on Thursday. Pariseau said no date was set for their wedding.

Johansson, 28, whose marriage to actor Ryan Reynolds ended in 2010, is generally reluctant to talk about her private life, but has explained what she does and doesn't want in a relationship.

"I don't like jealous behavior," she told Marie Claire magazine in an interview earlier this year. "It's really unattractive because it shows a sort of insecurity."

Johansson starred in "Lost in Translation" and was in Italy this week promoting "Under the Skin" when the large diamond ring on her left hand started getting attention. □



Actress Scarlett Johansson arrives on the red carpet for the screening of the film Under the Skin at the 70th edition of the Venice Film Festival held from Aug. 28 through Sept. 7, in Venice, Italy, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2013.

Associated Press

Broadway revival of 'Annie' to close in Jan.



This theater image released by Boneau/Bryan-Brown shows Lilla Crawford in the title role of the musical "Annie," in New York. Copyright 2013 The Associated Press

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's hard-knock life on Broadway — the revival of "Annie" is set to close in January.

Producers said Thursday that the show will have its final performance on Jan. 5 at the Palace Theater. It will have played 487 performances and 38 previews. But a national tour is planned for the 2014-2015 season. Based on the beloved comic strip that

debuted in 1924, "Annie" first opened on Broadway in 1977 and ran for almost six years, fueled by songs including "It's the Hard-Knock Life" and "Tomorrow." The revival's box office numbers were usually decent, without being fantastic. Last week, the show only pulled in half of its potential revenue — \$720,823 from a possible \$1,398,648. The show got only one Tony Award nomination, for best musical revival. □

Jolie, Martin, Lansbury to get honorary Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP) — And the honorary Academy Awards go to... Angelina Jolie, Steve Martin, Angela Lansbury and Italian costume designer Piero Tosi.

The film academy announced Thursday that Jolie will receive the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, while Martin, Lansbury and Tosi will get Oscars recognizing their career achievements.

Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs said the Governors Awards "pay tribute to individuals who've made indelible contributions in their respective fields."

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Board of Governors voted on the recipients of its fifth annual awards earlier this week. The honorary Oscars will be presented at an untelevised ceremony on Nov. 16 at Hollywood & Highland Center's Ray Dolby Ballroom.

Martin said on Twitter he's proud to receive the award, calling it "a salute to comedy and all the great people I've worked with." The 68-year-old entertainer has written and starred in



In this May 19, 2013 file photo, Steve Martin attends the 2013 Drama Desk Awards in New York. Associated Press

dozens of movies, hosted the Oscar ceremony three times and was nominated for his 1977 short film, "The Absent-Minded Waiter."

Lansbury, 87, has been nominated for three supporting-actress Oscars during her 65-year career. Her most recent role was in 2011's "Mr. Popper's Penguins."

Tosi's costume designs have earned him five Oscar nominations, most recently for 1979's "Las Vegas aux Folles" and 1982's "La Traviata."

The Hersholt Award is presented periodically to a film industry member for



exemplary humanitarian work. Jolie, who was nominated for her leading performance in 2008's "Changeling" and won for her supporting role in 1999's "Girl, Interrupted," serves as a special envoy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The 38-year-old actress and filmmaker has also lobbied Congress to support programs protecting women and children.

Previous recipients of the Hersholt Award include Jeffrey Katzenberg, Oprah Winfrey, Sherry Lansing, Jerry Lewis and Elizabeth Taylor. □

Lorna Luft, Liza Minnelli reunite for two concerts



This June 1, 1993 file photo shows singer Liza Minnelli, left, and her sister Lorna Luft at the Tony Awards in New York.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Judy Garland's talented daughters Lorna Luft and Liza Min-

nelli will perform together for the first time in 20 years during two concerts next

month to raise money to fight breast cancer.

The concerts will be held Oct. 14 and Oct. 21 at the jazz club Birdland on West 44th Street. Most tickets start at \$250 and include drinks and dinner.

The last time the sister performed together was during a memorable duet at the 1993 Tony Awards. Other guest performers will be Nick Adams, Ann Hampton Callaway, Liz Callaway, Jim Caruso, Kelly King, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Phyllis Newman and Marcia Strassman.

The concerts will benefit the Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative and the Dr. Philomena McAndrew Fund of Tower Cancer Research Foundation. □

Arsenio fulfills his dream with late-night return

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Did fate decree that Arsenio Hall would return to late night after two decades' absence?

If so, he's answering that comeback call on Sept. 9 with the premiere of "The Arsenio Hall Show" (syndicated; check local listings for time and channel).

And he's itching to get going.

"You know how certain things make you nervous?" he said recently. "I don't like to fly, but once I'm on the plane and we're over the Rockies and I'm watching a movie, I'm fine."

"Right now I feel like I do when I'm in the airport."

It was in 1987 that a then-unknown Hall, briefly stepping in for Joan Rivers' short-lived Fox talk show, took flight as the cool, hip alternative to NBC's "Tonight Show" titan Johnny Carson.

Then, in January 1989, he



This Nov. 3, 2012 file photo shows Arsenio Hall performing at "Eddie Murphy: One Night Only," a celebration of Murphy's career in Beverly Hills, Calif. After two decades, Hall is returning to late night television with "The Arsenio Hall Show," premiering on Sept. 9.

debuted with his own syndicated late-night show against Carson. He proved a formidable rival with his party atmosphere (the "Dog Pound" audience

greeted him with "woofs" and other animal sounds as well as applause) and a wide range of guests, including presidential candidate Bill Clinton (sport-

ing shades and wailing "Heartbreak Hotel" on his sax) and basketball great Magic Johnson shortly after announcing he was HIV positive.

But by 1994, Hall was facing new competition from "Tonight" host Jay Leno and David Letterman on CBS. With ratings slipping, he announced he was leaving the late-night arena, and, gracefully, he did. In the years that followed, he kept a low profile. A sitcom came and went. He hosted "Star Search" for a season. He co-starred on a CBS drama "Martial Law" for a couple of years. Did standup.

He also devoted himself to his son, Arsenio Jr., now 13, whose mother is Hall's ex, former manager and down-the-street neighbor Cheryl Bonacci.

"I love being a dad," he said. "When kids got together at Chuck E. Cheese, there were a lot of mothers — and me."

But Hall yearned to return to late night. In June 2012 he announced it was happening.

"People say, 'How did you know when to do it?'" Several times before I had tried!" False starts included a meeting with studio big-wigs he skipped because his son was sick. Or the nail in a piece of sushi that

broke his tooth the night before an all-important guest-hosting gig.

"Signs like that," Hall said, "seemed to mean I wasn't ready yet."

Now he's sure he's ready, whatever skeptics may say.

"I hear all the long-shot talk: 'This is an impossible thing to do after all this time. The field is so crowded.' But I still have to pursue my dream!"

Meeting with a reporter at a rehearsal space in a rawboned section of North Hollywood while his new house band was tuning up, Hall radiated the charm and high energy that made him a hit with viewers so long ago. At 58, he comes across much the same as ever — lanky, boyish, wide-open grin. The biggest difference: his mustache is long gone. "It had too much gray in it," he confided.

As part of his strategy to reintroduce himself, Hall became a contestant on "The Celebrity Apprentice" early in 2012 — and ended up not only gaining the exposure he sought, but also winning the competition. Even so, do enough viewers know who he is — or remember him — to get his new show off the ground?

"When people ask that, I'm like, 'Well, NO ONE knew me the FIRST time!' I used to joke that people thought Arsenio Hall was a dorm at UCLA. So don't I have a better shot THIS time?" A quarter-century ago, he broke the late-night color barrier, but in many ways his show was refreshingly color-blind. Inclusiveness is his goal again.

"I became 'the black show' before because the other shows were really, really not," he said. "But now (ABC late-night host Jimmy) Kimmel's MUCH blacker than me: He is juiced in to everybody from Kobe (Bryant) to (rapper) Rick Ross." Besides, talk shows traffic in many of the same guests, Hall observed. What distinguishes one show from the next is its host and how he interacts with those guests. □

'Blurred Lines' named Billboard song of the summer

NEW YORK (AP) — To no one's surprise, Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" is Billboard's song of the summer. Billboard announced the list Thursday. Rock outfit Imagine Dragons is second with "Radioactive," followed by Daft Punk with "Get Lucky." Miley Cyrus' party anthem "We Can't Stop" is fourth and "Can't Hold Us" by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis is fifth.

The rest of the list includes hits from Florida Georgia Line, Justin Timberlake, Bruno Mars and Selena Gomez. Oscar nominee Anna Kendrick's "Pitch Perfect" soundtrack hit, "Cups," is ninth. Thicke's "Blurred Lines" was also named Spotify's song of the summer. □

In this Feb. 24, 2013 file photo, Paula Patton and Robin Thicke arrive at the 2013 Vanity Fair Oscars Viewing and After Party at the Sunset Plaza Hotel in West Hollywood, Calif. Associated Press



Traveling Without Seeing



FRANK BRUNI
© 2013 New York Times

SHANGHAI - I'm half a world from home, in a city I've never explored, with fresh sights and sounds around every corner. And what am I doing? I'm watching exactly the kind of television program I might watch in my Manhattan apartment. Before I left New York, I downloaded a season of "The Wire," in case I wanted to binge, in case I needed the comfort. It's on my iPad with a slew of books I'm sure to find gripping, a bunch of the music I like best, issues of favorite magazines: a portable trove of the tried and true, guaranteed to insulate me from the strange and new. I force myself to quit "The Wire" after about 20 minutes and I venture into the streets, because Baltimore's drug dealers will wait and Shanghai's soup dumplings won't. But I'm haunted by how tempting it was to stay put, by how easily a person these days can travel the globe, and travel through life, in a thoroughly customized cocoon.

I'm not talking about the chain hotels or chain restaurants that we've long had and that somehow manage to be identical from time zone to time zone, language to language: carbon-copy refuges for unadventurous souls and stomachs. I'm talking about our hard drives, our wired ways, "the cloud" and all of that. I'm talking about our unprecedented ability to tote around and dwell in a snugly tailored reality of our own creation, a monochromatic gallery of our own curation. This coddling involves more than earphones, touch pads, palm-sized screens and gigabytes of memory. It's a function of how so many of us use this technology and how we let it use us. We tune out by tucking ourselves into virtual enclaves in which our ingrained tastes are mirrored and our established opinions reflected back at us. In theory the Internet, along with its kindred advances, should expand our horizons, speeding us to aesthetic and intellectual territories we haven't charted before. Often it does.

But at our instigation and with our assent, it also herds us into tribes of common thought and shared temperament, amplifying the timeless human tropism toward cliques. Cyberspace,

like suburbia, has gated communities.

Our Web bookmarks and our chosen social-media feeds help us retreat deeper into our partisan camps. (Cable-television news lends its own mighty hand.) "It's the great irony of the Internet era: People have more access than ever to an array of viewpoints, but also the technological ability to screen out anything that doesn't reinforce their views," Jonathan Martin wrote in Politico last year, explaining how so many strategists and analysts on the right convinced themselves, in defiance of polls, that Mitt Romney was about to win the presidency. But this sort of echo chamber also exists on cultural fronts, where we're exhorted toward sameness and sorted into categories. The helpful video-store clerk or bookstore owner has been replaced, refined, automated: We now have Netflix suggestions for what we should watch next, based on what we've watched before, and we're given Amazon prods for purchasing novels that have been shown to please readers just like us. We're profiled, then clustered accordingly.

By joining particular threads on Facebook and Twitter, we can linger interminably on the one or two television shows that obsess us. Through music-streaming services and their formulas for our sweet spots, we meet new bands that might as well be reconfigurations of the old ones. Algorithms lead us to anagrams. I keep thinking about a widely circulated speech that the movie director Steven Soderbergh gave this year. He recounted a flight he'd taken from New York to California and the way a nearby passenger had been using an iPad. "I begin to realize that what he's done is he's loaded in half a dozen sort of action extravaganzas and he's watching each of the action sequences," Soderbergh said. "This guy's flight is going to be five and a half hours of just mayhem porn."

Soderbergh was mainly lamenting the endangered appreciation of real storytelling and character development. But there's an additional moral to his story. As his fellow flier traversed an entire continent, he used a device capable of putting a galaxy of information within reach to collapse the universe into one redundant experience, one sustained note, a well-worn groove also known as a rut. There he happily spun his wheels.

I say that as someone who has too frequently spun his own, clutching my smartphone, looking down instead of up, tap-tap-tapping, maintaining unbroken contact with the usual suspects and entertainment and ideas. But I try to resist, because trading serendipity for safety is a raw deal in the end. There's a skyline in Shanghai unlike any I've seen. Who knows what other discoveries are in store? □



Fighting Poverty, And Critics



JOE NOCERA
© 2013 New York Times

Nina Munk's new book, "The Idealist," is about the well-known economist Jeffrey Sachs and his "quest to end poverty," as the subtitle puts it. I know: That subtitle sounds like classic book-industry hyperbole, but, in this case, it's not. That really is what Sachs has been trying to do. The question of whether or not he is succeeding is where things get tricky.

The quest began in 2005, when Sachs, who directs the Earth Institute at Columbia University, started an ambitious program called the Millennium Villages Project. He and his team chose a handful of sub-Saharan African villages, where they imposed a series of "interventions" in such areas as agriculture, health and education. The idea was that these villages would show Africa - and the world - how the continent could loosen the grip that extreme poverty had on so many of its people. From the start, the Millennium Villages Project has been controversial. It has soaked up large sums of money - the original seed money was \$120 million - which its critics believe could have been better used on more targeted, less grandiose forms of aid. Because Sachs, for years, refused - on ethical grounds, he said - to rigorously compare the results at his villages with villages that didn't get the same kind

of help, development experts complained that there was no way of knowing if the project was making a difference.

"There is zero scientific evidence that the Millennium Villages Project is meeting its goals," says Michael Clemens, a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development and a leading Sachs critic. Sachs, for his part, insists that the Millennium Villages Project has been a roaring success, so much so that its interventions are now being imitated - "scaled up" - in nations like Uganda, with full government support.

It is not quite right to say that Nina Munk has sidestepped the dispute between Sachs and his critics. Mainly, though, she has looked at the Millennium Villages Project through a different lens. She has spent the last half-dozen years traveling back and forth to Africa, to see for herself how the Sachs experiment was unfolding. She focused in particular on two villages: Dertu, Kenya, and Ruhira, Uganda.

"Jeff is a charismatic man, and I wanted to believe in him," Munk told me recently. (She and I overlapped at Fortune for several years.) She is quick to give him credit where it is due: for instance, his passionate advocacy for free distribution of insecticide-coated bed nets, at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars, is an important reason that the scourge of malaria is being reduced. But her reporting also caused her to become disillusioned, and humbled, by the difficulties that any Western aid effort is likely to encounter. With almost every intervention, she documents the chasm that exists between the villagers and those running the project. At one point, the Millennium Villages Project persuades the farmers in Ruhira to grow maize instead of their traditional crop, called matoke. "The results were fantastic," she reports, a bumper crop. Except there were no buyers for the maize, so most of it wound up being eat-

en by rats. In Dertu, Sachs's staff decided it should set up a live-stock market. It flopped. Efforts to convince villagers to start small businesses largely failed. The critical problem of getting clean water to the villages was enormously expensive.

Ultimately, reports Munk, Dertu was abandoned by the Millennium Villages Project while Ruhira is today lauded as one of the project's most successful villages. "There is no question the lives of people in Ruhira have been improved," Munk told me. "I've seen it." But she is dubious about what that means - other than the fact that if you pump millions of dollars into an isolated African village, the villagers' lives will be better. (Sachs' defenders say that most of her reporting was done before the project really found its footing.) And there's the rub. Sachs has always aimed higher than helping a handful of villages. He wants to put his imprint on all of Africa. When I spoke to him recently, he claimed that is exactly what has been happening, thanks to more than \$100 million in loans from the Islamic Development Bank. But when I looked at the press release announcing the "scale up" in Uganda, the money involved was less than \$10 million - a pittance, really, and unlikely to transform the country.

That things in Africa are getting better is undeniable. Child mortality is down, as is the number of people living in extreme poverty. In his book, "Emerging Africa," Steve Radalet, the former chief economist for the United States Agency for International Development, gives credit to such factors as more democratic governments, a new class of civil servants and businesspeople, and sounder economic policies. Sachs, on the other hand, wants us to believe that the main driver has been the Millennium Villages Project, which has shown the way.

"The Idealist" makes it tough to believe it's the latter. □

The 6-Figure Price Tag For Selling A \$2 Hot Dog

SAM ROBERTS

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK - Call it the half-million-dollar hot dog cart. Mohammad Mastafa of Queens has to sell almost that much in drinks and snacks annually to break even on the pushcart he owns. He pays the city's parks department \$289,500 a year just for the right to operate his single cart near the Central Park Zoo.

It may seem like an exorbitant amount of money, but it isn't shocking to many of the other food vendors like Mastafa who compete to

not divulging details about what they make, most pushcart sites presumably turn a profit or they would not attract such high bids. The annual fee some vendors offer to pay the city has doubled or even tripled in the past 10 years. A decade ago, the fee paid for the pushcart at the Central Park Zoo entrance was \$120,000, less than half of what Mastafa paid most recently. The second most expensive cart is near Tavern on the Green, where the fee is about \$267,000. For many other parks, es-

up for bid, but still earns \$3,000 to \$5,000 a year from his cart.

"I don't want to lose this spot," he said. "We have to pay the employee, the permit, everything. But at least we're happy. We see everybody."

The parks department's pushcart concessions, which are put out for bid every five years, produce more than \$4.5 million annually for the city's general fund.

The vendors who work at the pushcarts are usually not the owners. Ripan

because their license fee to the city is waived under a 19th-century law.

Sometimes, the operators say, other people own the carts and pay veterans to staff them. That indirect relationship is a problem that parks department officials acknowledge, but maintain that they are largely powerless to police, particularly while the city is appealing court rulings that would further expand the veterans' vending rights. (Food carts outside the parks are licensed separately by the city's health

ings by the police.

"Some locations are really losing money," Rad said.

Rad has a partnership with New York Picnic Co. to supply many of the Central Park pushcarts. He said pushcart operators have ancillary costs, including \$20 or so for each delivery of ice several times a day and to transport their carts from warehouses or garages. He estimated that to recoup his expenses, Mastafa's zoo pushcart would have to generate more than \$425,000 a year in revenue.

"We're dying," said Ranjit Dev, whose company has the license to several desirable sites in and around Central Park.

"How can I pay \$180,000 if I can't sell? How am I going to pay the rent?" Construction near the Metropolitan Museum of Art has also depressed sales at what is typically a prime vending site.

New York is a city of superlatives, so the estimated 40 million or so visitors to Central Park a year obviously buy an awful lot of bottled water, ice cream and other refreshments. Maximum prices for snacks and beverages are set by the department.

Seubankar Ray, who works at a cart on Central Park West, said bottled water was his best-selling item, although sometimes even New Yorkers balked at the price. "They say, 'It's \$3? Oh, my God! I'm not tourist.'"

In July, even at that price (the maximum for a 24-ounce bottle), he sold 15 cases a day. He typically sells up to 200 hot dogs a day at \$2 each. He said the take for the cart ranges from \$2,000 a day on a warm summer weekend to \$200 in the winter, when he sells mostly hot dogs and nuts.

Another pushcart operator, Amin, who agreed to be identified using only his last name, said the cart he operates on West Drive can generate as little as \$50 a day in the winter, but \$2,500 on a summer Saturday. □



A vendor at a cart near the Central Park Zoo, a spot that carries the highest vendor fee among city parks at \$289,500, in New York. Many of the food vendors who compete to operate pushcarts in New York City parks pay exorbitant fees to operate in those locations.

(Hiroko Masuie/The New York Times)

operate pushcarts in New York City parks.

The zoo entrance drew the highest bid among the 150 pushcart sites in public parks, but the operators of four other carts in and around Central Park also pay the city more than \$200,000 a year each. In fact, the 20 highest license fees, each exceeding \$100,000, are all for Central Park carts.

"It's a lot of peanuts, it's a lot of hot dogs," said Elizabeth W. Smith, the assistant parks commissioner for revenue and marketing.

It is a lot of visitors in need of sustenance. So while vendors are adamant about

pecially those in parks outside Manhattan, the fees are much lower - \$14,000 in Astoria Park in Queens, \$3,200 in Maria Hernandez Park in Brooklyn and \$1,100 in Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx. The lowest fee, \$700, is paid by the owner of a pushcart near the soccer fields at Inwood Hill Park in upper Manhattan.

Elizendo Vaquero, 50, of the Bronx, has been selling there to soccer players on Sundays since 1989 (since 1997 with a permit).

"Everybody knows us here," he said. "This is like family."

He said he bids higher and higher each time it comes

Alam, 31, typically works Mastafa's cart from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the summer and says it makes about \$750 weekly, although the revenue produced by sales from the cart fluctuates wildly.

"When it's raining, sometimes empty, nothing, zero," Alam said the other day. "Lots of times I go empty. Monday and Tuesday, nothing."

Pushcart operators complain that they are being crushed by increasing competition from disabled veterans who compete from choice curbside locations on park perimeters and who can charge less

department.)

Mastafa, like other operators interviewed, declined to say how much his cart nets. People in the industry suggest their reluctance stems from the fear of competition in bidding when licenses expire, tax confidentiality and dealings with their wholesalers. He referred a reporter to his supplier, Alex Rad, who explained that pushcart economics are more complex than they might seem. Parks were shut during Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and, since the Boston Marathon bombing, vendors are sometimes shooed away from large public gather-